



CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PURCHASING & CONTRACTING DEPT.
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92101-4195

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) COVER SHEET
PROGRAM(S) TO MEET CITY'S 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS

Subject: Solutions to Support the City of San Diego's Goal of 100% Renewable Energy

Date Issued: September 23, 2016

Response Date and Time (Closing Date): October 21, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

Questions/Comments Due Date: September 30, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

City Contact Name and Information: Maureen Medvedyev, Principal
Procurement Specialist, Mmedvedyev@sandiego.gov

Respondent's Information:

Respondent Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No. and E-Mail Address: _____

Website: _____

Authorized Representative Name and Title: _____

Representative's Original Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

TO BE CONSIDERED, RESPONDENT MUST :

- 1) Provide all requested information identified in this Cover Sheet.
- 2) Submit all requested information described in the RFI.
- 3) Submit all requested information on or before the Closing Date.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND

The City of San Diego (City), with a total population of approximately 1.3 million and a land area of approximately 324 square miles, is the eighth largest city in the nation and the second largest city in California. The City offers a wide range of cultural and recreational services to both residents and visitors. Major components of the City's diversified economy include defense, tourism, biotechnology/biosciences, financial and business services, software, and telecommunications.

In December 2015, the City took a landmark step towards a cleaner and greener future with the adoption of a Climate Action Plan (CAP), which calls for reductions in greenhouse emissions and aims for all electricity used in the city to come from renewable sources by 2035. This goal addresses "all the electricity supplied to all customers within the City of San Diego boundary, including that supplied by behind-the-meter technologies such as rooftop solar.¹" The CAP is attached as Exhibit A. Additional information (e.g. Plan Funding and Implementation Report, CAP Consistency Checklist, technical support documentation,...etc.) can be found by visiting <http://www.sandiego.gov/sustainability>.

B. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This RFI is issued for purposes of gathering information and planning. The City does not intend to award a contract on the basis of information received in response to this RFI. The City may, in its sole discretion, consider the information submitted in response to this RFI during the development of a competitive solicitation.

In order to reach the goal of 100 percent renewable electricity, the City would like to examine all options to increase the use of renewable energy and limit the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs). Currently, the renewable energy supply on the grid is approximately 33 percent with a small, additional amount provided through rooftop solar and other distributed systems.

Ultimately, the City would like to explore projects and programs that would help achieve the goals of the CAP, increase use of renewable energy Citywide, and increase program, project, and financing options available to the City, its residents, and businesses. Therefore, the City of San Diego is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to obtain information from industry and other stakeholders regarding program(s) that could help the City achieve its 100 percent renewable electricity and greenhouse gas reductions goals by 2035.

Responses to the City's RFI should provide recommendations for new or enhanced renewable energy projects, requirements, technologies, financing, partnerships and/or programs. The City seeks responses from all entities involved in and supporting the renewable energy sector including, but not limited to, developers, generators, financial institutions, energy brokerages, and trade groups. The City is open to receiving responses from single entities or from entities that represent multi-ventures that could provide creative solutions to deliver or enable reliable and cost-effective concepts, projects and products for the City, its residents, and/or businesses to help meet our goals.

¹ City of San Diego, Climate Action Plan, December 2015, Appendices, pg. A-5.
Goods and Services RFI
Revised: October 13, 2014
OCA Document No. 855607

C.

CITY OBJECTIVES

1. In addition to achieving the 2035 target, the strategies desired by the City and in the spirit of the CAP include, but are not limited to:

1.1 Contributing to the City's 100 percent renewable electricity goal by 2035;

1.2 An energy portfolio with lower carbon content than is currently provided, and lower than that required per California SB 350 and the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard;

1.3 Identifying new and diverse sources of renewable energy to supply electricity and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

1.4 Ensuring reliable and sustainable energy services for both the near- and long-term;

1.5 Spurring new renewable energy development;

1.6 Following the State of California's loading order by considering energy efficiency, demand response, and other alternatives to generation for buildings in the City above levels currently achieved;

1.7 Considering social equity in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

1.8 Increasing resources dedicated to local investment and economic development; and

1.9 Creating green jobs in San Diego above levels currently achieved.

2. The City is interested in ideas that:

2.1 Are cost effective for the City and its communities, businesses and residents;

2.2 Consider the effects on the City's communities, businesses and residents;

2.3 Are innovative concepts and/or technologies;

2.4 Ensure long-term greenhouse gas reductions; and

2.5 Minimize the use of renewable energy certificates (RECs).

Any concepts submitted shall reflect transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to the community and financial and operational sustainability for the City of San Diego.

The City will use the RFI as the basis to determine if a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued to further explore new program concepts. There is no guarantee that a future RFP will be released. If a subsequent RFP is issued, it will be open to all parties, not just those responding to this RFI.

D. RFI QUESTIONS

Respondents must answer the following questions in their RFI submittal and ensure all objectives in section I.C above are addressed. While creativity is encouraged, only complete and realistic concepts will be reviewed. A proposed concept may be further explored by the City, depending on how well the submittal addresses the objectives in section I.C and the RFI questions in section I.D. For quantitative questions, reasonable and informed estimates are allowable.

1. Please provide a detailed description of the concept (project or program) you are submitting for consideration. Where not otherwise addressed below, please include discussions such as feasibility, impact/benefits, timeframe, costs, and examples of similar successes.
2. The City is interested in how recommendations will fit into CAP efforts. For each proposed project or program, identify which goals of the CAP and objectives referenced in section I.C will be achieved, and how they will be achieved.
3. Does the project or program support the City's renewable energy goals? How?
4. What are specific technologies and estimated costs required to implement recommendations, and what might be appropriate funding mechanisms? Identify parties that may incur the costs (e.g., City, residents, businesses, ...etc.).
5. What is an estimated timeframe for implementation of projects or programs submitted, and what are the factors that may contribute to accelerating or slowing the implementation timeline?
6. Who are potential participants in the implementation and operation of the proposed projects or programs?
7. How is the specific project or program new or different than what the City is currently doing, and how can it potentially be integrated with existing or future projects or programs?
8. What are potential obstacles to implementation, including compliance requirements, regulatory barriers, technological or market feasibility, financing limitations and/or other parameters? Identify potential solutions for each.
9. What are the estimated results of the proposed concept(s), including the potential for greenhouse gas emissions reductions, numbers of residents and/or businesses accessing the program, economic impacts, ...etc.?
10. Include any other comments that you would like to offer that were not previously addressed.

E. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Respondents must submit one (1) original, two (2) hard copies, and one (1) electronic copy of their submittal. Respondents should not include or incorporate marketing or promotional materials in their response.

II. RFI SUBMITTAL PROCESS

A. RFI SUBMITTAL

1. Timely Submission. Responses must be submitted as described herein in a sealed envelope to the Purchasing & Contracting Department (P&C) located at 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92101. The subject as described on the Cover Sheet and Closing Date must be referenced in the lower left-hand corner of the outside of the envelope.

2. Questions and Comments. Written questions and comments must be electronically mailed (e-mailed) to the City Contact identified on the Cover Sheet no later than the date specified on the Cover Sheet. Only written communications relative to the RFI shall be considered. E-mail is the only acceptable method for submission of questions. It is incumbent upon respondents to verify that the City has received their questions and/or comments. All questions will be answered in writing. The City will distribute questions and answers without identification of the inquirer(s) to all responders who are on record as having received this RFI. No oral communications can be relied upon for this RFI. Addenda will be issued addressing questions or comments that are determined by the City to cause a change to any part of this RFI.

3. Future Competitive Solicitations. Respondents are not prohibited from submitting one or more proposals should the City competitively bid the goods or services described herein.

4. RFI Opening and California Public Records Act. Responses to this RFI will not be opened in public. Note, however, that any information submitted in response to a RFI is a public record subject to disclosure unless the City determines that a specific exemption in the California Public Records Act (CPRA) applies. If a Respondent submits information clearly marked confidential or proprietary, the City may protect such information and treat it with confidentiality to the extent permitted by law. However, it will be the responsibility of the Respondent to provide to the City the specific legal grounds on which the City can rely in withholding information requested under the CPRA should the City choose to withhold such information. If the Respondent does not provide a specific and detailed legal basis for requesting the City to withhold the Respondent's confidential or proprietary information at the time a response is submitted, the City will release the information as required by the CPRA and Respondent will hold the City, its elected officials, officers, and employees harmless for release of this information. It will be the Respondent's obligation to defend, at Respondent's expense, any legal actions or challenges seeking to obtain from the City any information requested under the CPRA withheld by the City at the Respondent's request. Furthermore, the Respondent shall indemnify and hold harmless the City, its elected officials, officers, and employees from and against any claim or liability, and defend any action brought against the City, resulting from the City's refusal to release information requested under the CPRA which was withheld at Respondent's request.

B. REQUESTED INFORMATION

1. To be considered responsive, Respondents' submission must provide all information requested in this RFI. All responses must be thorough and concise.

2. Respondents should address any other issues related to this RFI that Respondent deems important and relevant to City's goals and objectives as described herein.

3. Respondents should describe any technical, business, legal, and/or revenue specifications City should consider when structuring a competitive solicitation that accomplishes the City's goals and objectives.

5. The City may require Respondents to interview and/or make an oral presentation.