

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District Department of the Environment



RFA for Completing and Communicating a Comprehensive Energy Plan

Informational Briefing

June 8, 2015

Questions and Answers

Q: Will Phase I and Phase II both need to be completed in a 12 month period?

A: Ideally, DDOE hopes that both phases can be completed in a twelve-month period but the final draft of the CEP must be completed by September 30, 2016.

Q: What is the goal for putting the final CEP into action?

A: After the CEP is completed and finalized by the grantee, the CEP will be posted by DDOE. The CEP will function as a living document on our website where we can continuously update the recommendations and progress as new information becomes available. DDOE will primarily be responsible for implementing the recommendations identified in the plan.

Q: Will there be one grant or multiple grants?

A: DDOE intends to award one grant to one applying entity for the completion of the CEP. (However, teams of multiple applicants can apply, with one organization as the lead applicant.)

Q: Can you indicate what additional information you are looking for and areas we can improve over the old report?

A: The old report was very measure-driven. A lot of the recommendations came directly from potential studies that looked at what would be the most cost-effective measures to install in the District. It did not go very far into policy recommendations to help close the gap between the energy savings identified in the studies and the lofty 50% goal of the Sustainable DC Plan. The new report should consider what the total energy savings will be and how will that help drive savings in various areas. Also, the old report was not reader-friendly. The CEP should be easily understood by the industry and District residents alike.

Q: What about on the research side? For this budget, are you expecting the organization will do original research?

A: No, DDOE expects that the grantee will be able to leverage the District's previous data collection and analyses to complete the CEP. The new CEP must build upon earlier versions of the CEP and preparatory work for that version, as well as the work of other jurisdictions. DDOE has recently completed studies (see <http://ddoe.dc.gov/energy>) that assessed the technical, economic, and achievable potential for electric and natural gas energy efficiency, demand response, and renewable energy programs to support the development of the CEP.

Q: Are you looking for new ideas on both technical and implementation sides?

A: Yes, both.

Q: Is there an emphasis on commercial or residential?

A: The CEP should be a balanced plan, but emphasis can be on commercial, since around 70% of energy use in the built environment comes from commercial sector.

Q: How do you see engagement with utilities such as Pepco and Washington Gas taking place? Is that in Phase II, or are you interested in incorporating their thoughts in Phase I.

A: Engagement with the utilities and other stakeholders identified by DDOE and the grantee is expected to occur in both Phase I and Phase II.

Q: What will be DDOE's role during the grant process? What level of engagement can be expected, will there be interim reviews?

A: The development of the CEP will be an interactive and iterative process with DDOE and other stakeholders. The grantee will meet with DDOE staff as needed throughout the development of the CEP to discuss details and make decisions. DDOE will not consider the grantee's CEP draft to be final until DDOE approves it in writing.

Q: Based on the document, are for-profit companies are eligible? Is a fee for profit an eligible cost?

A: Yes, for-profits can apply, and that fee can be part of the budget proposal.

Q: How is the District considering its goals for reducing energy use, reducing carbon, increasing renewable energy? Since the District is not an island, how do you look at this metric vis-à-vis the boundaries of the District? Is this just within the boundaries of the District? Or do you want to consider, for example, changes in power plant fuel emissions?

A: Energy efficiency and renewable energy targets are based on consumption within the boundaries of the District. Carbon emissions targets are based on emissions within the District and Scope II emissions from burning fossil fuels at power plants outside of the District (<http://green.dc.gov/service/greenhouse-gas-inventories>).

Q: How do you anticipate making the baseline for enhanced resilience and reliability, and what metrics would you be using? How do you anticipate making that assessment?

A: All metrics are on the table. Certainly SAIDI [System Average Interruption Duration Index] and SAIFI [System Average Interruption Frequency Index] are important indices for reliability. As a baseline, we consider what is currently authorized through the District Public Service Commission for distribution grid reliability.

Q: Is the Transportation sector included in this grant; should it be considered in this plan?

A: The draft CEP did not provide an in depth assessment of the transportation sector because the District has a stand-alone transportation plan, MoveDC (<http://www.wemovedc.org/>). But to the extent transportation fuels are part of the larger energy savings picture, we would like to see a discussion of that included in the plan.

Q: What is the baseline against which we are measuring, since the District in 2032 will be different from today in building stock and population? Is there a framework that will help us understand the projections for 2032 that would drive energy use?

A: Energy efficiency and renewable energy targets in the draft CEP are based on calendar year 2013 consumption. To our knowledge, there is no readily available building stock or population data that will help us understand what the District would look like in 2032. That would require research on the consultant's part. However, to be clear, while the Sustainable DC Plan did set energy efficiency and renewable energy targets to be achieved by 2032, the CEP is a five year plan that should put the District on a trajectory towards those targets.

Q: How long can we send in questions?

A: DDOE will accept questions until Friday, June 26, 2015 and will post the response to each question on DDOE's website within 48 hours.