

Green Stormwater Maintenance RFA Information Session
REV. 10/6/21

Q&A Doc

Participants:

Bailey Gilmore – The National Re-Entry Network for Returning Citizens
Brett Wallace -- CSW
Brian Rodgers – CSW
Robert Jordan - CSW
Mark Buscaino – Casey Trees
Carol Wong – CWP
Dr. Kala Fleming – Frontline – Gig workers to cities and universities who need help
Krystle Talley – TCG Property Care – Wade Casamajor
Ahmed -- GW University Student – Nonprofit classroom participant
Larry Davis – Lead for Green Mechanics Stormwater Management and Low Energy

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications #2022-2124-WPD

Questions:

Q1. Please clarify the amount of funding and timeframe? Is this \$1.1MM per year or \$1.1MM for the 3-year life of the grant?

A1. \$1.1 million for year 1 with the possibility of an extension and additions funds.

Q2. Will a copy of the slide show be provided after this information session?

A2. Yes, it will be posted to the RFA page.

Q3. How will the administrator deal with hardscape repair issues? Will a contractor need to be on staff or will a report to DOEE be required?

A3. This effort requires triage – if a BMP is in disrepair or not functioning and need of major repair, you'd refer it back to DOEE. We aren't looking for a construction company through this request for Applications. Work that is considered heavy rehabilitation, reconstruction, retrofit would be redirected to a different effort.

Q4. Will invasive plant management (chemical) staff be required as part of the team staffing??

A4. Knowledge of native and non-native invasive plants and weeds will be essential. Licensed chemical applicators are desired but not essential.

Q5. Will historical maintenance schedules and inspection logs be shared?

A5. Yes, some of this information is already currently available in the published web map.

Q6. Is the CWP Clean Water Certificate able to be substituted for the certifications listed in the RFA?

A6. Yes, it is an eligible certification.

Q7. Is there application programming interface (API) access to the Surface and Groundwater System database? Is the database accessible today for anyone to review logs of maintenance history?

A7. Full access to the SGS database is not available at this time. Only what is posted in the map published with the RFA.

Q8. Will the plan for maintenance for all GSI sites be required on day one or is that a gradual process? Is there a start date for maintenance?

A8. The application requires a workplan provided for consideration as a draft, which then is finalized within 4 weeks upon award of the grant.

Q9. Can you clarify what extensive qualifications for GSI maintenance looks like?

A9. Please see the RFA, section 7.2.A.10.

Q10. Since there is only going to be one grant does this mean the applicant who is able to include all 500 sites or the most sites be scored higher?

A10. We are looking for cost effective and efficient approaches, and the ability to get lots of work done with creative approaches and job development.

Q11. Is the pay wage going by the Davis bacon scale for the employees on the grant? With that being said for community engagement is there a certain amount of hours that could be giving to volunteer?

A11. The Davis – Bacon Scale does not apply. We are not looking for volunteer hour matches here.

Q12. For ensuring work is completed, can an applicant's database be integrated to the DOEE databased to report work done?

A12. See Appendix 7 of the RFA regarding Self Inspection Self Reporting.

Q13. There is a 10-page maximum and additional five pages for production, is there any conflict of interest to get referrals from other government agencies?

A13. There is no conflict of interest and Letters of Support do not count toward the page limits.

Q14. Can inspection of these 500 sites be part of the grant? Maintenance after inspection is typically more efficient at these scales?

A14. Yes

Q15. Do you want to see a 3-year production plan at this time? Or 1-year?

A15. Yes, we would like to see a 3-year production plan but it is not a requirement. Please note that Year 2 and Year 3 could be significantly different than Year 1.

Q16. The range of job employment for youth at the university level, is there a component of the RFA that would build into this?

A16. No.

Q17. Is the funding in the grant supposed to pay for the actual maintenance?

A17. Yes

Q18. Should an application follow the number grant elements beginning on Page 23?

A18. Yes, please follow the RFA outline format.

Q19. What level of maintenance is DOEE requiring for something to be “checked done”?

A19. Refer to the maintenance requirements of a given BMP type according to the 2020 Stormwater Management Guidebook.

Q20. Is there a cutoff for questions?

A20. Yes, one week prior to the application deadline on October 5 at 11:59 PM.

Q21. As far as waste management, are contractors required to dispose of the waste themselves?

A21. Maintenance conducted is inclusive of proper hauling and disposal of solid waste, and is required for reporting and invoicing.

Q22. You’re looking for a proposal that addresses as much maintenance as can be done, and create jobs, for the funding provided?

A22. Yes

Q23. For grants of this magnitude, DOEE typically has a several month lead time between grant announcement and the deadline for proposal submission. This one, however, is only one month.

Why is the timeframe so short?

A23. The RFA is posted for the minimum amount of time required.

Q24. Are grantees required to work with all the district agencies listed if it needs to hire additional staff to execute the tasks outlined in the grant, or is this just a suggestion on how a grantee may approach sourcing labor?

A24. These are recommended resources.

Q25. Must proposals be structured to maintain all of the 500 facilities identified in the RFP, or can it be less than that based on what a grantee estimates their costs to be based upon size of the facilities, distances travelled, etc.

A25. Refer to the RFA for outputs and scoring criteria. All proposals will be evaluated based on overall cost effectiveness and creativity.

Q26. How does DOEE define “excellent” routine maintenance?

A26. Refer to the maintenance requirements of a given BMP type according to the 2020 Stormwater Management Guidebook.

Q27. How do you define “sustainable employment?”

A27. The applicant defines sustainable employment.

Q28. Based on what Casey Trees on Appendix 7 of the RFP, the form/information required to be filled out for each site after it has been maintained is quite detailed requiring a lot of time per site. Also, the example form contained in the appendix is static, and our understanding of this form is, it could be wrong if a lot of the fields are auto-filled and DOEE is only looking for specific maintenance tasks that could be memorialized in this form quickly. It would be extremely helpful if DOEE could walk us through an actual example of what filling out this form will entail so we can get a realistic

view of the time that it take. Alternatively, if DOEE can send us a link so we'd have an actual form we can fill out that would also be helpful.

Please let us know if you can set up a zoom call to walk us through an example of filling out a form, and/or send us an interactive form so we get a feel for the time involved ourselves.

A28. At this time, DOEE will only provide the following sample self-inspection self-reporting forms, posted as Appendix 8 on the RFA website.