

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR A CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
FOR THE ST. LOUIS, MO-IL MSA**

Solicitation # 2024RFP1-CCAP



**EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments**

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

***1 S. Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102***

June 10, 2024

**Request for Proposals
for
A Consultant to Develop a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan**

East-West Gateway Council of Governments (the Council) is seeking proposals from a consultant or a team of consultants to develop a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) as part of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program.

Submittals are due no later than 1:00 p.m. local time on July 10, 2024 to the following address:

“Solicitation # 2024RFP1-CCAP”
c/o Ms. Stacia Alvarez
Director of Administration
East-West Gateway Council of Governments
1 S. Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102-2451

Section III contains the formatting, content, and other requirements for a submittal. ***Unless otherwise due to extenuating circumstances and approved by the Council in advance, any submittals received after the date and time listed above will be rejected and returned unopened.***

Pre-Submittal Meeting – A mandatory pre-submittal meeting is scheduled to be conducted virtually. Please refer to Section IX of this RFP for more information regarding this meeting.

Section	Page
I. Introduction & Background	4
II. Scope of Work	9
III. Submittal Requirements	15
IV. Evaluation & Selection Procedures	22
V. General Items	30
VI. Nondiscrimination Requirements	33
VII. D/S/W/MBE Participation & Equal Opportunity	34
VIII. Protest Procedures	39
IX. Inquiries & Submission Information	40

Attachments*

Time Availability for Key Personnel Form

Prior Work Experience / Past Performance Form

A Price Proposal

B Firm Information

C Affirmative Action Checklist

D Contract Terms & Conditions Comments

E RFP Minimum Requirements Checklist

F D/S/W/MBE Participation Form

G Letter of Intent to Perform as a D/S/W/MBE

**Fillable / savable version of the attachments can be found on the Council's website at www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/*

Appendices**

1 Evaluation Criteria & Factors

2 Draft Contract Terms & Conditions

3 Conflicts of Interest Policy

4 Firm Responsibility Questionnaire

5 FAQs – Submittal Requirements

***Appendices are available on the Council's website at www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/*

The Council is seeking submittals from a consultant or team of consultants (the Consultant) to develop a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the St. Louis, MO-IL metropolitan statistical area (MSA) as part of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. Activities and deliverables proposed must meet EPA's requirements as outlined in guidance documents on the CPRG webpage (www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants). All activities, recommendations, and products must be designed and implemented in a manner that achieves federal Justice 40 objectives (see www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40-epa).

The Council received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Inflation Reduction Act –CPRG program to complete a CCAP for the MSA. The geographic area required for analysis and engagement in this process consists of the MSA that includes the following jurisdictions: Bond County, Calhoun County, Clinton County, Jersey County, Macoupin County, Madison County, Monroe County, and St. Clair County in Illinois; Franklin County, Jefferson County, Lincoln County, St. Charles County, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and Warren County Missouri.

The overall goal of this process will be to:

- Conduct a comprehensive engagement process that meets the federal requirements for *meaningful engagement* and expand the OneSTL Network so that future collaborative efforts are broader in geographic scale and more inclusive
- Complete a regional CCAP that updates OneSTL climate-related goals and objectives and presents an illustrative scenario to achieve regional Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050
- Complete the Low Income/Disadvantaged Community Benefits Analysis, Community Benefits Analysis and Workforce Analysis

The Council and ten other partners completed a regional plan for sustainable development in 2013 under the EPA/DOT/HUD Sustainable Communities Partnership. The product of that effort is titled OneSTL (<http://www.onestl.org/>). The plan is comprehensive and contains many strategies that result in reduction of carbon emissions. Development of a regional climate action plan will build upon the previous planning and efforts conducted as part of OneSTL. A core of regional stakeholders exists in OneSTL Working Groups and a more loosely identified OneSTL Network. Working Group meetings and the OneSTL Sustainability Lab are held monthly. Access to all OneSTL resources are available for use in developing the regional CCAP.

The Council conducted activities necessary to complete a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) as required under the CPRG. The PCAP met the requirements of the grant program so that entities in the MSA were eligible to apply for CPRG Implementation funding. The PCAP will serve as initial research for a CCAP. As the PCAP was intended to meet the requirements specifically for the CPRG implementation funding, we intend that findings or recommendations presented in the PCAP to only inform the CCAP, and that goals and priorities in the CCAP will be based on more comprehensive research and engagement. To complete the PCAP, the Council conducted engagement through the OneSTL Working Groups, OneSTL Network, and interviews with stakeholder organizations and government agencies. The PCAP can be found at: www.onestl.org/media/site/documents/STL%20MSA%20PCAP%2003.01.24.pdf

The Council will also coordinate with local planning processes underway during the timeframe of this program. The City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and multiple other municipalities will be going through updates to land use and comprehensive plans. By the time of release of this RFP, the Council will have

begun working with local planning departments to integrate feedback on climate and carbon reduction into those processes. As much as possible, the Consultant should coordinate and integrate the feedback and findings from these planning processes.

The CCAP and recommendations contained in it will outline an illustrative scenario for the MSA to achieve Net-Zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by the year 2050. GHG reduction measures are defined as the practices, projects, and policies that can be implemented by businesses, non-profits, governments and residents to reduce and eventually eliminate GHG emissions. The measures and calculations presented in the CCAP will be based on a baseline inventory from 2015 and a subsequent inventory for the year 2022 to be conducted by the Council with assistance from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. The Consultant will not be responsible for collecting data for the GHG inventory.

A. Tasks

The tasks described below provide a generalized scope of work for the project. A responding firm's submittal must, at a minimum, address the tasks described below. Please note that the tasks described below reflect the minimum number of broad elements that will be included in the CCAP that is created for the project. It is possible that the CCAP developed for the project will include more detail or other more specific sub-elements. Each responding firm is encouraged to identify other key elements that it expects may be an important part of the project and describe its approach to addressing those elements.

Task #1 – Project Management / Administration

The Consultant must oversee all aspects of the project. The Consultant must meet regularly with the Council throughout the project period. At the beginning of the project, the Consultant and the Council will hold an in-person kick-off meeting to discuss the Consultant's approach to the project, recommendations for the project, and to finalize the project schedule. The Consultant must hold regular conference calls with the Council staff and must conduct periodic in-person meetings with the Council at key points throughout the project period.

Each submittal must include a proposed project schedule. The final project schedule will be approved by the Council, and the Consultant must adhere to the approved schedule. Please refer to Part B of this Section II for more information regarding the time constraints associated with the project and the requirements for the project schedule that must be submitted.

The Consultant must also submit regular invoices and progress reports to the Council and provide the Council with the information that it needs to complete its reports to the funding agencies. The Consultant will need to be available to answer any follow-up questions regarding its work or the information provided in its reports.

Task 1 Deliverables:

- ❖ *Project schedule, in agreed upon format*
- ❖ *Invoices, in approved format¹*
- ❖ *Progress reports, in approved format²*
- ❖ *Other information, as needed*

Task #2 – Public Engagement

The primary goals for public engagement during the CCAP process are to:

- Engage communities that represent the full demographics of the region
- Inform communities of benefits of carbon reduction programs

¹ A sample invoice format is provided in Appendix 2, Attachment 1

² A sample of the progress reporting format is provided in Appendix 2, Attachment 2

- Obtain feedback on GHG reduction measures
- Inform communities of funding opportunities and regional progress
- Develop engagement content for digital distribution

The Council staff have been meeting with members of the OneSTL Network and Working Groups and other regional stakeholders. They have also been conducting engagement through tabling at public events. The Consultant will review the engagement conducted with the Council staff and develop an engagement strategy that meets the primary public engagement goals of the CCAP.

The planning area for the CCAP incorporates the MSA, which is seven counties larger than the Council's typical planning area. The large geographic scale of the planning area will require a broad and creative process to gather meaningful input from all corners of the MSA. The Consultant will use EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool to ensure that engagement occurs in low-income and disadvantaged communities. Engagement may incorporate a variety of feedback mechanisms including, but not limited to in-person meetings, on-line surveys and meetings, and phone surveys. The Council is not specifying use of any particular feedback mechanism. The Consultant will propose in the public engagement strategy an overall approach, an approach for engagement with disadvantaged communities, outreach and feedback mechanisms and activities to be utilized, a schedule for performance, and anticipated costs for notices and printed materials.

An engaging and informative web presence is important for gathering input during the planning process as well as conveying information to assist with implementation. The Consultant will suggest and supply content and graphics for the Council staff to update existing pages on the OneSTL website. Additionally, the Consultant will develop messaging and graphics that can be distributed on the Council's and OneSTL social media accounts and newsletters.

This CCAP engagement process should reach residents through events, government entities, other organizations, and institutions closest to them. As much as possible, public engagement will occur in coordination with community groups, municipalities, and counties in the region. The CCAP engagement should consider that organizations working with communities, particularly in Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDACs), report that residents feel "engagement fatigue". Also, given the geographic scale of the CCAP and the Council's standard planning area, frequent and meaningful engagement with all residents, neighborhood groups, and other community-based organizations in the MSA is very difficult to achieve. Therefore, the engagement process should work, as much as possible, within the processes and relationships that local governments are building with their constituents.

Engagement during the planning process should be designed to educate participants on the benefits of carbon emissions reduction activities, educate participants on programs and funding available to implement such activities, and contribute to the development of the final CCAP.

The public engagement strategy will be implemented jointly by Council staff and the Consultant. Council staff will be available to handle logistics such as securing venues, meeting set-up, sign-in-table staffing, and staffing engagement activities and events. The Consultant should focus on the overall strategy for engaging the various audiences, producing quality materials for use in engagement activities, key messaging, meeting facilitation, and providing expert staff for events. The Consultant will provide a summary of each engagement event within one week of completion of the event. Upon completion of

all engagement events, the Consultant will assemble and provide a synopsis of all engagement conducted.

Council staff maintains relationships with many organizations in the region through OneSTL. Through these relationships, Council staff are presented opportunities to table and present at events throughout the year. These events and invitations can be difficult to prepare for ahead of time. If such instances arise and Council staff views them as an opportunity to collect additional feedback, the Consultant will not be required to participate in the event. However, Council staff will provide the Consultant with a summary of feedback obtained.

All public outreach must comply with the Council's Title VI Program and be consistent with the Council's Public Involvement Plan.³

Task 2 Deliverables:

- ❖ *Public engagement strategy*
- ❖ *Meetings and related minutes/records*
- ❖ *Public outreach activities and related feedback*
- ❖ *Presentation materials*
- ❖ *Public meeting reports*
- ❖ *Digital content for OneSTL website and social media platforms*
- ❖ *Summary report of full public engagement process*

Task #3 – Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

“Comprehensive”, as defined in the CPRG, refers to all sectors of emissions identified in the GHG inventory. The CCAP in the CPRG program requires:

- A current GHG inventory
- GHG emissions projections
- GHG reduction targets
- GHG reduction measures
- LIDAC Benefits Analysis
- Community Benefits Analysis
- Workforce Analysis
- Review of Authority to Implement
- Review of Intersection of Funding Availability

The items listed above are distinct elements to be included in the CCAP as required by the EPA. However, they will need to be developed concurrently with input from Council staff and OneSTL partners. ClearPath will be used as the platform for the GHG inventory. The Consultant will be required to work collaboratively with Council staff to use the GHG inventory and ClearPath to set emissions reduction targets and estimate emissions projections. If the Consultant recommends a different

³ The Council's Title VI Program and Public Involvement Plan are available at: www.ewgateway.org/titlevi. The Title VI requirements for public meetings / events is provided in Appendix 2, Title VI Requirements for Public Meetings.

platform or methodology to estimate emissions, The Council must have unencumbered access to such platform and/or methodology for future planning efforts.

Task 3a: Background/Data Collection

The background information for the CCAP should include summaries of the GHG emissions inventories, climate change impacts on the Midwest and St. Louis, a focused summary of impacts on vulnerable communities, existing plans and activities intended to lower GHG emissions, and regional trends that could impact future emissions level.

Task 3b: Emissions Reduction Projections and Illustrative Scenario

The Consultant will explore paths for achieving Net Zero GHG emissions. An illustrative scenario will be developed that incorporates practices and expectations for all sectors identified in the GHG inventory, but the following topics should be emphasized. The majority of GHG emissions in the MSA are a result of energy creation. Ameren set a path to convert its power generation to renewable sources. The CCAP should focus on measures outside of utility power generation but may include practices that could influence expedited conversion to clean energy sources. The second largest source of GHG emission is from transportation. The illustrative scenario will include the implications of mass conversion to electric vehicles for personal, fleet and freight use; the potential for expanding transit; and trends in micro-mobility.

Task 3c: Implementation

Implementation of a regional climate action plan will be complex and will need to span all sectors. The CCAP must include:

- an illustrative scenario that identifies quantifiable GHG emissions reduction (and carbon sinks) measures
- key implementing agency or agencies
- implementation schedule and milestones
- milestones for obtaining implementation authority as appropriate
- estimated costs and identification of funding sources if relevant
- metrics for tracking progress
- a recommendation for a network or structure to engage with stakeholders and monitor and implement GHG emissions measures

Distinct community benefits analysis, low-income/ disadvantaged community benefits analysis, and workforce analysis will be completed for the illustrative scenario (see Task 4) and may be presented as stand-alone reports or integrated into the presentation of measures.

Subsequent to the CPRG process, the Council will strive to continue contact with low-income, disadvantaged, and other communities through respective city and county departments and other community-based organizations. New organizations contacted as a result of the CPRG process will be invited to continue engagement through OneSTL. The implementation recommendations should include

an evaluation of the processes and formats employed by OneSTL and recommend changes based on needs and feedback of organizations working in those communities.

Task 3d: Assemble Climate Action Plan Document

The Consultant will assemble a draft CCAP for review and comment. The draft plan will be available for a minimum of two months. A final document will be assembled and provided to the Council in Adobe Illustrator. The CCAP should be written as an update to the OneSTL regional plan for sustainable development. The CCAP will be a stand-alone document but should include references to the OneSTL plan including where content in the CCAP is augmenting or replacing content in OneSTL. The Consultant will also produce an 8 or 12 page executive summary of the final CCAP that includes an overview of the process, measures, and implementation. The executive summary will be provided to the Council in Adobe Illustrator.

Task 3 Deliverables:

- ❖ *Background/vulnerability section of CCAP*
- ❖ *Draft CCAP*
- ❖ *Final CCAP*
- ❖ *Executive Summary*

Task #4 – Impact Analyses

The CPRG program requires three analyses of the impacts of GHG reduction. The *Benefits Analysis* is an estimation of reductions in criteria air pollutants and hazardous air pollutants (i.e. co-pollutants) as GHG emissions are reduced. The *Low Income/Disadvantaged Communities Benefits Analysis* focuses on additional analysis of census tracts identified on EPA’s Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool including reduction of co-pollutants, economic impacts, and social impacts. The *Workforce Analysis* is intended to examine the conditions of the local workforce and its strengths and weaknesses in being able to contribute to achieving the goals of the CCAP. The Impact Analyses are presented as stand-alone task items as required and explained by the EPA; however the deliverable reports for Task 4 are not required to be standalone documents. They may be presented in conjunction with carbon emissions reduction measures or the illustrative scenario.

Task 4a: Benefits Analysis

The Consultant will develop a Benefits Analysis that will present reduction estimates of co-pollutants based on implementation of an illustrative scenario of reaching Net Zero GHG emissions. Co-pollutants include criteria air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter. Other co-pollutants include hazardous air pollutants such as benzene and heavy metals. A full list of co-pollutants to be analyzed will be identified and agreed upon by the Consultant and the Council. The list of co-pollutants will be guided by the measures identified in the illustrative scenario, data availability, and existing tools and procedures for estimating reductions. The Consultant may use existing tools such as AVoided Emissions and geneRation Tool (AVERT) or propose an alternative estimating technique.

The co-pollutants analysis will include:

- A base-line inventory of co-pollutants based on the current GHG inventory
- Two projections based on: taking no-action and implementing all measures in the illustrative scenario.

More information on data sources and tools for estimating emissions can be found in the Benefits Analysis Guidance. www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/cprg-tools-and-technical-assistance-benefits-analysis.

The Consultant will develop a draft and a final Benefits Analysis report. The Consultant will also produce a technical appendix that describes the data and methodology used to conduct the Benefits Analysis.

Task 4a Deliverables:

- ❖ *Draft Benefits Analysis Report*
- ❖ *Final Benefits Analysis Report*
- ❖ *Technical appendix*

Task 4b: Low Income/Disadvantaged Community Benefits Analysis

A Low Income/Disadvantaged Community (LIDAC) Benefits Analysis is intended to help the EPA evaluate if their programs are meeting the goals of the Justice 40 Initiative, where 40 percent of overall benefits of federal investments are delivered to disadvantaged communities. The Consultant will evaluate the extent to which any GHG reduction measures in the CCAP will impact co-pollutant emissions reductions and other benefits within LIDACs. The LIDAC Benefits Analysis will include:

- Identification of LIDAC areas in the St. Louis MSA using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and any parameters that take into consideration locally available data
- Identification of census tracts and summary of specific climate impacts and risks to which disadvantaged communities are particularly vulnerable
- A qualitative discussion or quantitative assessment of the expected benefits to LIDACs associated with the GHG reduction measures included in the CCAP (including direct and indirect benefits, as described above);
- The proportion of benefits expected to accrue in the identified communities as compared to the total benefits resulting from the GHG emission reduction measures. These benefits can be described quantitatively or qualitatively; and,
- An update on meaningful engagement activities as well as a summary of engagement conducted, and a summary of the stakeholder input received and how the input was incorporated.

The benefits as listed by the EPA at a minimum must include reduction of co-pollutants. Other benefits may be reported based on availability of data and include jobs created, dollars of investment, decreased energy cost, and area of greenspace created. The Consultant will submit to the Council proposed benefits to measure based on projects identified during the planning process.

More information on data and tools can be found outlined in the LIDAC Benefits Analysis Guidance. www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/cprg-tools-and-technical-assistance-low-income-and-disadvantaged.

The Consultant will develop a draft and a final LIDAC benefits analysis report. The Consultant will also produce a technical appendix that describes the data and methodology used to conduct the LIDAC benefits analysis.

Task 4b Deliverables:

- ❖ *Draft LIDAC Benefits Analysis Report*
- ❖ *Final LIDAC Benefits Analysis Report*
- ❖ *Technical appendix*

Task 4c: Workforce Planning Analysis

The Workforce Analysis is an essential element in mapping a region's ability to achieve carbon reduction goals. The scaling-up of high impact projects can only happen if the region has an appropriately trained workforce. The Workforce Analysis will evaluate the current condition of the workforce in relation to the projects being proposed in the CCAP. The Analysis is intended to guide recommendations for filling the gap between the workforce's capacity and the projected levels of specialized labor needed to implement the Plan's projects. The Workforce Analysis will include:

- A forecast for the number of jobs, by sector, needed to complete the CCAP's projects
- A description of the specialized jobs and work skills needed to complete the CCAP's projects
- An estimate of possible job loss or displacement, if applicable
- A SWOT Analysis of the MSA's ability to fill the jobs needed
- Specific identification of barriers for low-income/disadvantaged populations to access those jobs
- Strategies for skills development, workforce training, and equitable access to training and employment

More information on data and tools can be found in the Workforce Planning Analysis Guidance. www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/cprg-tools-and-technical-assistance-workforce-planning-analysis.

The Consultant will develop a draft and a final Workforce Analysis report. The Consultant will also produce a technical appendix that describes the data and methodology used to conduct the Workforce Analysis.

Task 4c Deliverables:

- ❖ *Draft Workforce Analysis Report*
- ❖ *Final Workforce Analysis Report*
- ❖ *Technical appendix*

B. Project Schedule

It is anticipated that the work for this project will begin in the fall of 2024 and must be completed no later than June 30, 2025. The draft CCAP is due in March 2025 with the final due in June 2025.

Each firm responding to this RFP must include in its submittal a recommended project schedule that, at a minimum, shows the estimated completion date for each of the tasks and sub-tasks and dates when the work products will be delivered to the Council. **Submittals that do not contain a project schedule may be deemed non-responsive and rejected.**

A. Formatting & Other Requirements

Submittals must conform to the following parameters*:

Page #	No more than 25 pages, exclusive of the required attachments
Page Size	8.5" X 11"
Page Orientation	Portrait, Landscape, or Both
Margins	1"
Font Size	Not less than 11 point font
Font Type	No requirement

*The submittal requirements listed above **do not** apply to work samples OR to the Attachments (forms).

Each responding firm must provide both printed and electronic copies of its submittal, including attachments and work samples. In addition to the parameters noted above, the submittal must adhere to the requirements described below for both the print and electronic versions.

Print Version – Submittal w/ Attachments A through G included*

# of Copies	6
Tabbing	Divide with tabs, organized in accordance with the outline provided in Part B below
Binding	No binder clips, paper clips, etc. (can use spiral binding, comb binding, etc.)

*Note that the work samples may **NOT** be included as part of the printed submittal but must be submitted as separate documents. **Attachments A through G are required in BOTH printed and electronic format.**

Print Version – Work Samples – Not Applicable, Submit Work Samples in Electronic Format Only*

# of Copies	None – printed versions of work samples not required
Tabbing	Not required
Binding	Not required

*Note that the work samples may **NOT** be included as part of the printed submittal but must be submitted as separate documents.

Electronic Versions

Submittal + Attachments	1 copy in *.pdf format
Attachment A	1 copy in *.xls or *.xlsx format
Work Samples	1 copy of each sample (3 total) in *.pdf format, unless URL is provided in lieu of a *.pdf
Storage Format	1 external storage device (e.g. USB flash drive)

Several attachments require a signature and **both** the print and electronic versions of these attachments **must include a signature**. A list of these attachments is provided below.

B	Form #2 – Statement of Past Performance AND Form #3 – Firm Responsibility Certification
D	Contract Terms & Conditions Comments
E	RFP Minimum Requirements Checklist
F	D/S/W/MBE Participation Form
G	Letter of Intent to Perform as a D/S/W/MBE

Additional information about the submittal requirements can be found in *Appendix 5 – FAQs – Submittal Requirements*.

B. Content

All of the items listed below must be addressed and included in each submittal. ***If all of these items are not provided in a firm’s submittal, then the Council may deem the firm’s submittal non-responsive and may not evaluate the submittal.***

The Council reserves the right to waive minor errors, omissions, or technicalities as determined to be in the best interest of the Council and that do not impede the Council’s ability to evaluate a responding firm’s quality of work, experience, or capability to perform the requested work.

In addition to the items noted below, each firm should ensure that its submittal provides any information that will be relevant to the evaluation process (see Section IV and *Appendix 1 – Evaluation Criteria & Factors (“Appendix 1”)*).

Sub-Part 1 – Approach & Qualifications

1. Letter of Interest. This letter must summarize the firm’s approach to the project and describe how the firm is particularly qualified to complete the work described in Section II. The letter must:
 - (a) commit the submittal for a minimum of 90 calendar days,
 - (b) include the name, phone number, and e-mail address of the person who the Council should contact in the event that questions arise regarding the firm’s submittal, and
 - (c) be signed by a firm principal.

2. Project Approach. The general scope of work for the project has been developed by the Council's staff and is provided in Section II. Each firm's submittal must include further detail about the specific methodology or approach that the firm intends to use to complete the project. Specifically, the description should, at a minimum, address each task listed in Section II and the following:
 - (a) The firm's approach, including project management, and how this approach will benefit the Council and allow the Council to accomplish its goals for the project.
 - (b) Any unique methods that the firm may employ to complete the project and why these methods are particularly well-suited to the project.
 - (c) A proposed project schedule (see Section II, Part C).

3. Qualifications. Each submittal must indicate the qualifications of the responding firm as it relates to the services requested in this RFP. The qualifications should be described in a brief narrative regarding the firm's capabilities to carry out the project, including special assets, areas of expertise, analytical tools, or data sources to which the firm has access. The qualification summary must also include the following:
 - (a) *Experience Summaries* – For each key person that will be assigned to the project, the submittal must include an experience summary. The summary should clearly identify the key person's prior experience on similar projects, in similar roles, and outline the responsibilities the person will have in the context of the Council's project. An experience summary must be provided for the following key personnel, as applicable:
 - ❖ Account management personnel
 - ❖ Project management
 - ❖ Personnel with specialized experience needed to complete the work*Full resumes should be included as an attachment to the submittal.*
 - (b) *Team Organization Chart* – A graphic representation of the team members that will be assigned to the project. The chart must show:
 - (i) the hierarchy of the team structure (i.e. who reports to who for purposes of the project);
 - (ii) the name and title of each individual show in the organization chart;
 - (iii) the firm for which each key person works; and
 - (iv) the role the key person will have during the project (e.g. Project Manager).
 - (c) *Addresses* – The address of the office in which each key person currently works.

Changes to Key Personnel – By responding to this RFP, a firm agrees that the key personnel that the firm identifies in its submittal will be available for the entirety of the project, throughout the term of the contract, as long as that individual is employed by the responding firm or unless the Council agrees to a change in key personnel.

- (d) *Time Availability for Key Personnel* – Each submittal must include the *Time Availability for Key Personnel Form* that is included in this solicitation.
- (e) *Prior Work Experience and Past Performance* – Each submittal must include information about the responding firm’s / consultant team’s prior work experience / past performance. The firm must provide information about **no less than 3 projects**. The projects that the firm uses to document its prior work experience / past performance must:
- ❖ demonstrate that the responding firm has completed a project similar in type, scope, and magnitude to the project described in this RFP,
 - ❖ demonstrate that the responding firm’s proposed key staff persons have performed work for / played roles in the firm’s prior projects that are similar to the work / roles that the firm is proposing for these key persons for the Council’s project, and
 - ❖ have been undertaken by the firm within the previous 3 years.

Additionally, for **each** project that the firm uses as an example of its prior work experience / past performance, the firm must submit **both** of the following:

- (i) *Prior Work Experience / Past Performance Form* – the responding firm’s submittal must include a *Prior Work Experience / Past Performance Form* for each project that the firm is using as an example of its prior work experience / past performance (**minimum of 3**). This form provides information about the firm’s prior project, client information that the Council may use during Step 3 of the evaluation and selection process, and information about the firm’s work sample.
- (ii) *Work Sample(s)* – the responding firm must provide 1 electronic copy of a work sample for each project (**minimum of 3**).

Sub-Part 2 – Project Price

The Council intends to award a single, firm fixed price contract for the services described in this RFP. Each firm responding to this RFP must provide **both** a printed and an electronic version of its price proposal. Each firm must submit its price proposal using *Attachment A – Price Proposal* (Attachment A). Attachment A is available in *.xlsx format on the Council’s website at www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/. This spreadsheet may only be modified as noted in the file.

*The Council reserves the right to reject, as non-responsive, a firm that does **not** submit:*

- ❖ *Attachment A in the required format*
- ❖ *All of the information requested in Attachment A*
- ❖ *The assumptions that form the basis of the price proposal*
- ❖ *A price for each component of the project, including any optional services (if applicable)*
- ❖ *Pricing information for subcontractors*

The Council reserves the right to select any portion of the proposed services, only the optional services, or any combination of the offered / optional services and the final project costs will be determined based upon the services selected. In order to ensure that the project costs are reasonable and necessary for the performance of the project work, the Council also reserves the right to: (1) question elements of cost and request additional information regarding the basis for the costs; (2) negotiate, and accept or reject, costs or elements of costs; (3) negotiate fixed fee; and (4) require additional documentation regarding the fully burdened hourly rates or overhead rate that the responding firm / its subcontractors propose to use for this project. A firm that refuses to provide information regarding its proposed fixed fee rate or documentation regarding its proposed fully burdened hourly rates or overhead rate may be deemed ineligible for a contract award.

Sub-Part 3 – Firm Information

*****A signed version of this Attachment should be provided in electronic format (*.pdf format) on your firm's external storage device. A printed version is required.***

Each responding firm must provide in its submittal *Attachment B – Firm Information* (Attachment B). This information will be used during Step 1 of the evaluation process and may be provided to the selection committee during other stages of the evaluation process. ***A submittal that does not include a completed and properly signed Attachment B may result in the Council determining that the responding firm is not responsible and, therefore, ineligible to move on to other steps of the procurement process or be awarded a contract for the project.***

Attachment B includes the following forms:

- #1 – Corporate Profile
- #2 – Statement of Past Performance
- #3 – Firm Responsibility Certification

Each form in Attachment B must be completed in its entirety. A responding firm is **not** permitted to substitute its own format or information for the forms included in Attachment B.

Responding firms should be aware that the Council may deem a firm's submittal non-responsive and reject the submittal for: (1) failure to sign Attachment B, Forms #2 and #3; (2) failure to provide all of the information requested in Attachment B; or (3) failure to provide sufficient information for the Council to make an initial responsibility determination. The Council reserves the right to waive minor errors, omissions, or technicalities in Attachment B as determined to be in the best interest of the Council.

Additional instructions are provided in Attachment B.

Sub-Part 4 – Other Forms & Certifications

****These Attachments should be provided in electronic format (*.pdf format) on your firm's external storage device. A printed version is required. The electronic version must include a signature where required.**

1. Affirmative Action Checklist. Each responding firm must complete and submit *Attachment C – Affirmative Action Checklist.*
2. Contract Terms & Conditions. The draft contract terms and conditions are provided in Appendix 2. These terms will govern the project and may change if circumstances warrant it; however, any terms required by state or federal rules, regulations, or statutes or by the Council's agreement with a funding agency, are non-negotiable and are not subject to change. Each responding firm must review the terms and complete, sign, and submit *Attachment D – Contract Terms & Conditions Comments*, which will notify the Council of the firm's questions or concerns about the contract terms and conditions.

Please note that certain appendices referred to in Appendix 2 (e.g. Appendix I (Scope of Work) and Appendix II (Milestone Payment Schedule)) will not be included in Appendix 2 because these appendices are developed by the Council and the Consultant during contract negotiations.

3. RFP Checklist. Each responding firm must complete, sign, and submit *Attachment E – RFP Minimum Requirements Checklist.*
4. D/S/W/MBE Participation. The Council encourages D/S/W/MBE participation. D/S/W/MBE includes: disadvantaged, small, women-owned, and minority business enterprises. Please refer to Section VII for more information about what constitutes a certified D/S/W/MBE. In order to document the D/S/W/MBE participation for the project, each responding firm must submit **ONE** of the following, as applicable:
 - (a) *No D/S/W/MBE Participation* – If the D/S/W/MBE participation for the project is 0%, the submittal must include a statement that there is no D/S/W/MBE participation for the project.

OR

 - (b) *Some D/S/W/MBE Participation* – If the responding firm is a D/S/W/MBE or intends to hire / has hired a D/S/W/MBE to perform work for the project, then the submittal must include **each** of the following:
 - (i) *Attachment F – D/S/W/MBE Participation Form.*
 - (ii) *Attachment G – Letter of Intent to Perform as a D/S/W/MBE for **each** certified D/S/W/MBE.*

The Council's selection of a firm to provide the services described in this RFP will be conducted in accordance with the Council's purchasing policies and procedures. Unless otherwise noted in this RFP, the Council will open and review each submittal that the Council received by the deadline described in Section IX, Part C. Each submittal will be evaluated according to the steps and criteria listed in this Section IV.

Upon successful selection approval, the Council will make the contract award to a responsible firm which provided a submittal that is most advantageous to the Council. The Council reserves the right to select a firm other than the one that offered the lowest proposed price or to select a firm other than the one with the highest rank (i.e. #1) if doing so would be in the best interest of the Council. The Council also reserves the right to make a selection for the project based solely on the information contained in the submittal and without conducting any discussions with any firm. If the Council decides to conduct discussions, it will proceed as described below. The Council reserves the right to select any consultant team, individual consultant, or combination of consultants that it determines is in its best interest.

Discussions and Clarifications

At its option, and if the Council determines that it is in its best interest, the Council may conduct additional discussions with any firm at any time prior to making a final selection. These discussions may pertain, but are not limited to: clarifying information contained in the firm's submittal or provided by the firm to the Council, clarifying information contained in the solicitation documents, obtaining additional information from the firm, negotiating the scope of work / submittal, permitting a firm to modify its submittal, etc. As part of this process, the Council may elect to conduct oral discussions, request more information, and request presentations concerning the firm's project approach and its ability to meet the project's requirements, including the budget. In general, the Council will conduct these discussions with a firm that is in the "competitive range." Competitive range means that the firm has a reasonable chance of being selected for the contract award, when relevant factors are considered (e.g. price, other evaluation / selection factors); however, the Council may choose to conduct these discussions with all firms that provided a submittal or only those firms that were deemed responsible and that provided a responsive submittal.

If these discussions lead the Council to determine that the solicitation documents were unclear or otherwise deficient and need to be modified, then the Council will follow the procedures described in Section V, Part I.

A. Step 1 – Responsiveness / Firm Responsibility

During Step 1 of the evaluation process, the Council will review a submittal to ensure that it meets all of the minimum RFP requirements and will make an initial determination regarding the responding firm’s responsibility. Each factor is described in more detail below.

Sub-Part 1 – Responsiveness

A submittal that does not meet the minimum RFP requirements may be rejected as non-responsive and may not continue to future steps of the evaluation and selection process.

The Council’s procurement staff will review each submittal that is received by the required due date and time in order to determine if the submittal meets the minimum requirements described in the solicitation documents.

Firms are not assigned points during this stage of the evaluation process; rather this stage of the process is based on the assignment of “yes/no/waived” for each minimum requirement. A submittal that does not meet the minimum requirements described in Section III and does not receive a waiver for not providing the required information, may be rejected as non-responsive and the firm may be deemed ineligible to move on to other stages of the evaluation process or be considered for a contract award. *The Council reserves the right to waive minor errors, omissions, or technicalities as determined to be in the best interest of the Council and that do not impede the Council’s ability to evaluate a responding firm’s quality of work, experience, or capability to perform the requested work.*

Sub-Part 2 – Firm Responsibility

The Council will not award a contract for the project to a firm that the Council’s determines is not responsible. The Council’s responsibility review will be conducted as described below. The definition of a “responsible” firm is provided in Sub-Part 2, #2. The factors that the Council may consider when making its determination are provided in *Appendix 1 – Evaluation Criteria & Factors (“Appendix 1”)*.

1. Initial Responsibility Review.

For each responsive submittal, the Council will conduct an initial review of the firm’s responsibility. The Council will make this initial determination based upon the responding firm’s submittal, Attachment B, Forms #2 and #3, and any other information the Council requests or determines is relevant to its determination. During the initial responsibility determination, no points are assigned, rather, the Council reviews the submittal and assigns either a “yes” or a “no” to indicate whether the firm has been deemed initially responsible and eligible to move on to the next step of the evaluation process.

The Council will notify the selection committee about any issues or areas of concern that are found during the initial responsibility review.

A submittal that does not include the information necessary for the Council to make its initial determination regarding firm responsibility may result in the Council determining that the responding firm is not responsible and, therefore, ineligible to move on to other steps of the procurement process or be awarded a contract for the project.

2. Definition. A “responsible” firm is one that:
- (a) does not have any corporate, legal, or financial barriers to successful performance,
 - (b) has, or has the ability to obtain, the financial and resource capacity to successfully complete the work described in this RFP within the estimated performance period,
 - (c) has a satisfactory performance record, and
 - (d) is not currently suspended or debarred or is not currently being considered for suspension or debarment.

B. Step 2 – Submittal Evaluation

The Council will evaluate each submittal that is deemed to be responsive and that was submitted by a firm that the Council deemed initially responsible. The Step 2 evaluation will be conducted using the process described below.

Sub-Part 1 – Screening Process (Optional)

The Council may determine that it will conduct a screening process for the submittals received for this solicitation. If the Council conducts a screening process, then each submittal that was deemed eligible to proceed beyond Step 1 of the evaluation process will be evaluated by a screening committee. Each firm will be assigned either a “Pass” or a “Fail” rating for the criteria described in Appendix 1.

If the Council chooses **not** to conduct a screening process, then the submittal evaluation process will begin with Sub-Part 2.

- 1. Rating. The evaluators that are members of the screening committee will review each submittal and assign a Pass or Fail rating based on the criteria described in Appendix 1.
- 2. Committee Rating. After each evaluator has independently evaluated each submittal, the evaluators will discuss each firm’s submittal, any additional information obtained by the Council, and the individual evaluator “Pass” / “Fail” ratings. The screening committee will determine, by consensus, whether each firm is assigned a “Pass” rating or a “Fail” rating. A firm must receive a “Pass” for each evaluation factor in order to receive a “Pass” for the evaluation criterion. A firm must receive a “Pass” rating for each of the criterion in order to receive an overall “Pass” rating for the screening process and move on to the scoring process described in Sub-Part 2. A firm that receives a “Fail” rating for any factor / criterion must be assigned an overall “Fail” rating, will not move on to other steps of the evaluation process, and will not be selected for contract award. In the event that the screening committee, cannot reach a decision about the “Pass” / “Fail” rating for each firm, the Council’s procurement staff will assign a “Pass” / “Fail” rating to each firm based upon an examination of the evaluators’ individual ratings.

Sub-Part 2 – Scoring & Ranking Process

If the Council conducted a screening process, then each submittal that received an overall “Pass” rating during the screening process described in Sub-Part 1 will be evaluated and scored based on the criteria described in Appendix 1.

If the Council did **not** conduct a screening process, then each submittal that was deemed eligible to proceed beyond Step 1 will be evaluated and scored based on the criteria described in Appendix 1. The submittal evaluation will be conducted as follows:

1. **Scoring.** The evaluators that are members of the selection committee will review each submittal and award points based on the evaluation criteria described in Appendix 1.
2. **Ranking.** After each evaluator has independently scored each submittal, the selection committee will determine, by consensus, the firm ranking (e.g. 1, 2, 3) using one of the methods described below.
 - (a) **Interviews Conducted (Optional).** If interviews are to be conducted, then, at the conclusion of the Step 2 scoring, the evaluators will complete the price proposal review and create the firm ranking and interview short-list as follows:
 - (i) **Price Proposal Review.** The evaluators, along with the Council’s procurement staff, will review the information contained in the firm’s submittal and price proposals. Points will not be assigned during the price proposal review. Rather a firm’s proposed price will be compared to its technical proposal to determine which proposal is potentially the best value to the Council. During this review, price will be given equal weight to the technical evaluation (i.e. criteria (a) – (e)). Note that a price proposal review will be conducted for only those firms that are being seriously considered for the contract award, which, in general, are those firms that received high marks on the technical and D/S/W/MBE evaluation.
 - (ii) **Short-Listing.** The evaluators will discuss each firm’s submittal, price proposal (as applicable), any additional information obtained by the Council, and the individual evaluator scores. Based on this assessment, the selection committee will determine, by consensus, the firm ranking (e.g. 1, 2, 3). In the event that the selection committee, cannot reach a decision about the rank for each firm, the Council’s procurement staff will assign an overall rank to each firm based upon an examination of the evaluators’ individual scores and the firms’ price proposals. The Council will create the interview short-list from the highest ranked firms.

The short-listed firms will continue to Step 4 of the evaluation process. Those firms that are not short-listed will not be invited for interviews or selected for contract award. The Council is in no way required to create a short-list or to select a certain minimum or maximum number of firms for a short-list.

(b) *No Interviews Conducted.* If interviews are not to be conducted, then, at the conclusion of the Step 2 scoring, the evaluators will complete the price proposal review and the final firm ranking as follows:

- (i) **Price Proposal Review.** The evaluators, along with the Council’s procurement staff, will review the information contained in the firm’s submittal, price proposal, and any information obtained by the Council during other steps of the evaluation process. Points will not be assigned during the price proposal review. Rather a firm’s proposed price will be compared to its technical proposal to determine which proposal represents the best value to the Council. During this review, price will be given equal weight to the technical evaluation (i.e. criteria (a) – (e)). Note that a price proposal review will be conducted for only those firms that are being seriously considered for the contract award, which, in general, are those firms that received high marks on the technical and D/S/W/MBE evaluation.
- (ii) **Final Firm Ranking.** The evaluators will discuss each firm’s submittal, price proposal, any additional information obtained by the Council, and the individual evaluator scores. Based on this assessment, the selection committee will determine, by consensus, the final firm ranking (e.g. 1, 2, 3). This firm ranking will indicate the firms that will be considered for a contract award.

In the event that the selection committee, cannot reach a decision about the final rank for each firm, the Council’s procurement staff will assign an overall rank to each firm based upon an examination of the evaluators’ individual scores and the firms’ price proposals.

The Council will note each firm’s rank on a Firm Selection Form according to the final firm ranking determined during this step of the evaluation process (e.g. 1, 2, 3).

At its option, the Council may proceed from Step 2 to Step 4 and not conduct Step 3 of the evaluation process.

C. Step 3 – Reference Checks (Optional)

The Council may elect to contact the references of the top-ranked firms, the short-listed firms, or the firm selected for a contract award. The reference check process, if conducted, will proceed as follows:

- 1. **Reference Check Forms.** Each reference will be sent a reference check form via e-mail. The reference will be provided the option to provide a reference in one of two ways: (a) complete the form and return it via e-mail or fax; or (b) complete the form over the phone.
- 2. **Deadline.** Each reference will be provided a deadline by which he / she must return the completed reference check form or provide a reference over the phone. In the event that a firm’s reference does not meet the deadline, the Council may, at its option, contact the responding firm to obtain an alternate reference.

3. Results. No points will be assigned to a firm based upon the reference checks. The reference check forms will be provided to the selection committee to use during Step 5 of the evaluation process. Even if no interviews are conducted, the Council may determine that reference checks will be conducted and the reference check results may be used by the Council or the selection committee to determine the final firm ranking (see Steps 2 and 5) and may be used during Step 6.

D. Step 4 – Interviews (Optional)
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At its option, the Council may invite the short-listed firms to attend an oral interview. The Council will notify each short-listed firm that it has been selected for an interview. The selection committee will use the information obtained during the interview process to develop the final firm ranking during Step 5 of the evaluation process.

E. Step 5 – Post-Interview Evaluation (Optional)

If interviews are conducted, then, at the conclusion of Steps 1 through 4 of the evaluation process, each interviewed firm will be scored and ranked, as follows:

1. Scoring. A selection committee will review the information obtained by the Council during Steps 1 through 4 of the evaluation process and will award points to each interviewed firm based on the evaluation criteria described in Appendix 1.
2. Ranking. After each evaluator has independently scored each interviewed firm, the selection committee will determine, by consensus, the final firm ranking (e.g. 1, 2, 3) using the steps below.
 - (a) *Price Proposal Review.* The evaluators, along with the Council’s procurement staff, will review each interviewed firm’s submittal, interview, and any information obtained by the Council during other steps of the evaluation process and will review the firm’s price proposals in light of the information obtained during the interview or other steps in the evaluation process. Points will not be assigned during this review. Rather a firm’s proposed price will be compared to its technical proposal, as supplemented by the information presented during the firm’s interview, to determine which proposal represents the best value to the Council. During this review, price will be given equal weight to the technical evaluation (i.e. criteria (a) – (e)), as supplemented by the information presented during the firm’s interview.
 - (b) *Final Firm Ranking.* The evaluators will discuss each interviewed firm’s submittal, interview, price proposal, any additional information obtained by the Council, and the individual evaluator scores. Based on this assessment, the selection committee will determine, by consensus, the final firm ranking (e.g. 1, 2, 3). This firm ranking will indicate the firms that will be considered for a contract award.

In the event that the selection committee, cannot reach a decision about the final rank for each interviewed firm, the Council’s procurement staff will assign an overall rank to

each interviewed firm based upon an examination of the evaluators' individual scores and the firms' price proposals.

The final rank for each firm that was not interviewed will be the rank assigned to that firm during the Step 2 short-listing process. The Council will note each firm's rank on a Firm Selection Form according to the final firm ranking determined during this step of the evaluation process (e.g. 1, 2, 3).

F. Step 6 – Selection & Contract Award

The final selection and contract award process will proceed as described below. The award process is considered open and on-going until all final negotiations have concluded.

1. Selection. After the conclusion of the evaluation process, the Council will recommend a contract award to the firm that was selected. The Council will make this recommendation to the Council's Board of Directors, which will indicate the firm selected for the contract award, the not-to-exceed contract price, and, if applicable, an alternate firm / firms that may be awarded the contract if the Council cannot successfully negotiate a contract with the selected firm. If the Board of Directors approves the selection recommendation and contract price, then the Council can begin negotiations with the selected firm.
2. Contract Award.
 - (a) *Firm Notifications.* Once the Board of Directors has approved the selection recommendation and amount of funding for the contract, the Council will notify the selected firm that it has been awarded the contract. The Council may notify the unsuccessful firms of the results at any time after the Board of Directors has approved the selection recommendation and contract funding. The Council may, at its option, elect to notify unsuccessful firms only after all negotiations have been concluded and a contract has been executed.
 - (b) *Negotiations.* The Council may negotiate the contract terms with the firm awarded the contract and, at its option, refine the firm's scope of work. As part of the negotiation process, the Council may elect to conduct oral discussions, request clarifications, and request presentations concerning the firm's project approach and its ability to meet the contract's requirements. During contract negotiations, the Council may discuss the firm's price proposal. The final contract price will be determined after considering changes needed due to: scope refinement, good cause, or ensuring the reasonableness and necessity of the proposed cost. The final contract price will not exceed the amount of funding approved by the Council's Board of Directors. If the Council cannot successfully negotiate a contract with the selected firm, then the Council may formally, and in writing, end all negotiations with the selected firm and may elect to:
 - (i) proceed to negotiate with the next available firm in the order of selection ranking until a contract is successfully reached or negotiations with all ranked firms end; or

- (ii) close the procurement process without conducting any negotiations with other firms.
- (c) *Final Responsibility Determination.* At the conclusion of the evaluation and selection process, after a firm has been selected, and the Council's Board has approved the selection decision, the Council will make a final responsibility determination for the firm that is selected for a contract award. The selected firm may be required to complete and submit a Firm Responsibility Questionnaire. A copy of this questionnaire is provided in *Appendix 4 – Firm Responsibility Questionnaire*. The Council may make its final determination regarding the selected firm's responsibility based upon any one or combination of: the firm's submittal, reference evaluations, the questionnaire, a review of the firm's financial situation, and any other information the Council requests or determines is relevant to its determination. See Step 1, Sub-Part 2, #2 for the definition of a "responsible" firm. The factors that the Council may use to make its final determination are described in Appendix 1. If the Council cannot determine that the firm is responsible, then the Council may formally, and in writing, end all negotiations with the selected firm and may elect to:
- (i) make a contract award to the next available firm in the order of selection ranking and proceed to contract negotiations with that firm; or
 - (ii) close the procurement process without making a contract award to any other firms.

A. Modifications of the Solicitation Documents

During the procurement process (including the evaluation and selection process), if the Council determines that this RFP is unclear, information is missing, or is otherwise deficient, the Council may decide to modify the solicitation documents by issuing an Addendum. In the event the solicitation documents are modified, the Council will determine how the evaluation and selection process will proceed (i.e. revert back to Step 2) and will explain this process in the Addendum document. The Council will notify the appropriate firms (e.g. the highest ranked, those in the competitive range) and provide instructions on how to provide a modified submittal. The Council is not required to notify any firms that had a submittal that was deemed non-responsive or any firms that were not deemed responsible. *The Council is under no obligation to modify the solicitation documents or provide any particular firm an opportunity to change its submittal. At all times, the Council will make its decisions based upon what is in the Council's best interest.*

B. Withdrawing a Submittal

A responding firm may withdraw or modify its submittal up to date and time noted in Section IX, Part C. A responding firm that wishes to withdraw or modify its submittal must provide a written notice (signed and on company letterhead) to the Council's designated point of contact identified in Section IX, Part A. Except as noted in Section V, Part A, once the deadline specified in Section IX, Part C has passed, a responding firm will not be permitted to withdraw or modify its submittal, unless the Council determines that it is in the Council's best interest to permit a firm to do so.

C. No Obligation to Award Contract or Pay for Cost to Develop Submittal

This RFP does not commit the Council to award a contract, to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation of a submittal, or to procure or contract for any particular goods or services.

D. Cancellation of this Request

The Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the submittals received as a result of this RFP. The Council may also cancel this RFP, in whole or in part, at any time including, but not limited to, after the Council's Board of Directors has authorized the Executive Director to enter into a contract. The Council will make these determinations based upon what is in the Council's best interest.

E. Unauthorized Communications

After the release of this RFP, a responding firm's contact regarding this RFP or the subject of this RFP must be limited to the person identified in Section IX, Part A. Unless the person contacted is the person identified in Section IX, Part A, any communication (whether oral or written) about this RFP or the subject of this RFP with any person or organization listed below is prohibited and may result in the responding firm's disqualification from the procurement process.

1. Members of the evaluation team or selection committee.
2. A Council staff member.
3. A member of the Council's Board of Directors or other committees.

The restrictions noted here apply equally to any of the responding firm's subcontractors or joint venture partners.

F. Gratuities, Favors, Gifts Prohibited

A responding firm is prohibited from offering any gratuity, favor, gift, or anything of monetary value to any officer, employee, agent, director, or Board or committee member of the Council for the purpose of influencing a favorable disposition toward the firm's selection for contract award or otherwise affecting the procurement process. *The restrictions noted here apply equally to any of the responding firm's subcontractors or joint venture partners.*

G. Non-Endorsement

If a firm is selected for contract award, the firm shall not issue any news releases or other statements pertaining to the award or the agreement that state or imply the Council's endorsement of the firm's services.

H. Public Records & Information

Responding firms should be aware that any information submitted in response to this RFP might be subject to disclosure under the Missouri Sunshine Act or the Federal Freedom of Information Act. The Council will handle all requests for information related to this RFP in accordance with applicable federal and state statutes. The Council will not disclose any information submitted in response to this RFP *prior* to the selection and retention of a consultant unless the firm provides the Council with written authorization or the Council is compelled to disclose the information by law or judicial decree.

I. Contract Type

The Council anticipates awarding a single, firm fixed price contract paid based upon milestone completion / delivery of products or actual cost reimbursement plus fixed fee contract. ***The payments issued by the Council under the contract will be for only completed milestones, and, except as stated in Appendix 2, Paragraph 10, Part (c)(vi), payments for partial milestones completed or percent work completed are not authorized.***

J. Project Funding

The Council anticipates funding the project using the following sources:

U.S. EPA	100%
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The Consultant shall not discriminate on grounds of the race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or age of any individual in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment. The Consultant shall not participate either directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by 40 CFR Part 7 including employment practices.

These nondiscrimination requirements apply to all solicitations either by competitive bidding or negotiation made by the Consultant for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurement of materials or equipment. The Consultant shall notify each potential subcontractor or supplier of these requirements relative to nondiscrimination on grounds of the race, color, religion, sex, disability, age, national origin, or ancestry of any individual.

A. D/S/W/MBE Participation for the Council’s Project

The Council has adopted a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program to ensure that DBEs have an equal opportunity to participate in Council projects. Additionally, the Council encourages participation from small (S), women-owned (W), and minority owned (M) business enterprises (collectively S/W/MBEs). D/S/W/MBEs are encouraged to provide a submittal as prime contractors for this project. Non-disadvantaged firms are encouraged to use D/S/W/MBEs as subcontractors or form joint ventures on the project.

All DBE and SBE participation will be governed by the Council’s DBE Program and W/MBE participation will be governed by applicable policies, requirements, and regulations of the Council’s funding agencies. Responding firms are also required to comply with the federal requirements described in Section VII, Part D.

B. Definitions

1. Disadvantaged Business. The term "Disadvantaged Business" means a small business concern:
 - (a) which is at least 51 percent owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, or, in the case of any publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; and
 - (b) whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it.

2. Presumption of Disadvantage. Members of the following named groups will be presumed to be both socially and economically disadvantaged by the Council:
 - (a) Black Americans,
 - (b) Hispanic Americans,
 - (c) Native Americans,
 - (d) Asian Pacific Americans,
 - (e) Asian Indian Americans,
 - (f) women (regardless of race, ethnicity or origin), and
 - (g) persons certified as socially and economically disadvantaged by the Small Business Administration (SBA) under the SBA Section 8(a) program.

3. Women’s Business Enterprise & Minority Business Enterprise. The terms “Women’s Business Enterprise” and a “Minority Business Enterprise” have the meanings set forth by the Missouri Office of Equal Opportunity (MoOEO), found at: <https://apps1.mo.gov/MWBCertifiedFirms/>.

- 4. Small Business Enterprise. The term “Small Business Enterprise” is defined in accordance with the SBA’s definition, as follows:
 - (a) *“... a small business concern is one that is independently owned and operated, is organized for profit, and is not dominant in its field. Depending on the industry, size standard eligibility is based on the average number of employees for the preceding twelve months or on sales volume averaged over a three-year period.”*
 - (b) The Council will use the SBE size standards provided in 13 CFR Part 121 (as it may be amended from time-to-time) to determine a small business enterprise’s eligibility.

C. Certifications

Any firm that wishes to participate as a D, S, W, or MBE for the Council’s project must first be currently certified and registered. The certification / registration requirements are described below.

- 1. DBE. In order to be considered a DBE, a firm must be certified and must be registered as a DBE through the Unified Certification Process (UCP) used by the State of Missouri. Missouri’s UCP directory is maintained by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). The UCP directory can be found at the following URL:
 - (a) [Missouri Regional Certification Committee \(MRCC\) Directory](#)

- 2. W/MBE. In order to be considered a WBE or MBE, a firm must be certified and must be registered with MoOEO, must be registered as a female-owned or minority-owned DBE through Missouri’s UCP or must demonstrate WBE status through its certification with the federal System for Award Management (SAM). The directories / SAM site can be found at the following URLs:
 - (a) [MoOEO W/MBE Directory](#)
 - (b) [MRCC Directory](#)
 - (c) [Federal System for Award Management](#)

- 3. SBE. In order to be considered an SBE, a firm must meet the definition of a small business, as indicated above, and be registered as an SBE through Missouri’s UCP or through the federal System for Award Management (SAM).
 - (a) [MRCC Directory](#)
 - (b) [Federal System for Award Management](#)

A D/S/W/MBE may include in its submittal a copy of its MRCC or SAM certification, as applicable.

D. Other Federal Requirements

Federal regulations require that responding firms take affirmative steps to ensure that S/W/MBE and labor surplus area firms have an equal opportunity to participate in and are used, when possible, on projects that are wholly or partially funded with EPA grant funds. These affirmative steps include:

1. placing qualified S/W/MBEs on solicitation lists for subcontracts or joint ventures;
2. assuring that S/W/MBEs are solicited whenever they are potential sources of work or supplies;
3. dividing total project requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by S/W/MBEs;
4. establishing delivery schedules, where the solicitation documents permit, which encourage participation by S/W/MBEs; and
5. using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of the SBA and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.

E. Documenting D/S/W/MBE Participation

As described in Section III, Sub-Part 4, #4, each firm responding to this solicitation must complete and submit Attachments F and G to document the level of D/S/W/MBE participation. Unless the Council determines that it is warranted, the firm selected for contract award **will not** be permitted to deviate from the participation percentages indicated in Attachments F and G.

In the course of this RFP and the evaluation and selection process, a responding firm (bidder or offeror whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of the contract) may file a protest when, in the firm's opinion, actions were taken by the Council's staff or the selection committee which could unfairly affect the outcome of the evaluation and selection process.

All protests should be in writing and directed to:

Executive Director
East-West Gateway Council of Governments
1 S. Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102

Protests should be made immediately upon the occurrence of the incident in question, but no later than three days after the responding firm received notification of the outcome of the evaluation and selection process. The protest should clearly state the grounds for the protest.

Upon receipt of the protest, the Executive Director will review the actual procedures followed during the evaluation and selection process and the documentation available. If it is determined that the action(s) unfairly changed the outcome of the evaluation and selection process, negotiations with the selected firm will cease until the matter is resolved.

A. Inquiry Submission & Deadline

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted no later than 1:00 p.m. local time on July 3, 2024. The Council will not accept any inquiries after this date and time. Inquiries include questions about or requests for clarification of the information contained in this RFP or about the project in general. All inquiries must be submitted to:

Stacia Alvarez
Director of Administration
East-West Gateway Council of Governments
1 S. Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102
(314) 421-4220 ext. 204
staci.alvarez@ewgateway.org

Before submitting a question, firms are encouraged to review Appendix 5 – FAQs – Submittal Requirements.

B. Q & A – Addendums Posted On-Line

In order to ensure that all firms receive the same information about this RFP or the project, the Council will post its response to any inquiry on its website at www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/. Each firm should visit the Council’s website periodically to check for any additional information. If a firm wishes to have a printed copy of the information mailed to it, then the firm must mail or e-mail a written request to the person identified in Section IX, Part A. This request must be received no later than 1:00 p.m. local time on July 3, 2024.

C. Submission Date, Time & Address

Submittals are due no later than 1:00 p.m. local time on July 10, 2024 to the following address:

“Solicitation # 2024RFP1-CCAP”
c/o Ms. Stacia Alvarez
Director of Administration
East-West Gateway Council of Governments
1 S. Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102-2451

A submittal will **not** be accepted if it is:

- ❖ Faxed
- ❖ E-mailed

Section III contains the formatting, content, and other requirements for a submittal. ***Unless otherwise due to extenuating circumstances and approved by the Council in advance, any submittals received after the date and time listed above will be rejected and returned unopened.***

All submittals, including any attachments, appendices, and work samples, that are received in response to this RFP will become the exclusive property of the Council and will not be returned to the responding firm unless otherwise noted in this RFP or the Council determines that returning the submitted materials is warranted.

D. Mandatory, Virtual Pre-Submittal Meeting

A mandatory, virtual pre-submittal meeting is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. The intent of the meeting is to provide submitting firms the opportunity to ask questions and meet staff so that firms can obtain a greater understanding of the goals and expectations of the project.

Firms can participate in the virtual pre-submittal meeting by computer or phone as indicated below:

Computer:

<https://meet.goto.com/971678781>

Phone:

Number: +1 (646) 749-3122

Access Code: :971-678-781

A representative of the prime firm must participate in the meeting; ideally, the project manager that will be assigned to the project will participate in the meeting. Attendance / participation by other team members is optional.

Submittals from firms that did not attend the pre-submittal meeting, will not be evaluated and will be returned unopened.

E. Interviews

Interviews, if conducted, are tentatively scheduled for the week of August 5, 2024. It is anticipated that each firm selected for an interview will be notified of the interview no later than Friday, July 26, 2024.

F. Solicitation Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule for this solicitation. This schedule may be modified, as needed.

Description	Time (Local)	Date
Pre-submittal meeting	10:00 a.m.	06/25/24
Deadline for questions	1:00 p.m.	07/03/24
Submittals due	1:00 p.m.	07/10/24
Selection Committee review / firm short-listing*	n/a	07/25/24
Interview notices sent*	n/a	07/26/24
Interviews* / firm selected for contract award	n/a	08/05 – 08/09/24
Board meeting / contract award approval	n/a	08/28/24
Selection notifications sent	n/a	08/29/24

**Note that short-listing and interviews are optional and may not be conducted.*

ATTACHMENTS

Fillable / Savable versions of the attachments are available on-line at:
www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/

St. Louis Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
Solicitation # 2024FP1-CCAP
Attachment A - Price Proposal, Project Total

Attachment A - Price Proposal

Tasks	PROJECT TOTAL													
	PRIME CONTRACTOR		SUBCONTRACTOR #1		SUBCONTRACTOR #2		SUBCONTRACTOR #3		SUBCONTRACTOR #4		SUBCONTRACTOR #5		Total	
	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Cost
1 - Project Management / Administration	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
2 - Public Engagement	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
3 - Comprehensive Climate Action Plan	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
4 - Impact Analyses	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Hours & Labor Costs Subtotal	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
ODCs	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	
Project Total	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00

www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/

Attachments for Illustrative Purposes
Editable Attachments Can be Accessed Online at:

St. Louis Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
Solicitation # 2024FP1-CCAP
Attachment A - Price Proposal, Prime

Attachment A - Price Proposal

		PRIME CONTRACTOR															
Tasks	Hrly Rate	Staff #1		Staff #2		Staff #3		Staff #4		Staff #5		Staff #6		Staff #7		Staff #8	
		Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs	Hrs	Costs
1 - Project Management / Administration			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
2 - Public Engagement			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
3 - Comprehensive Climate Action Plan			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
4 - Impact Analyses			\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Hours & Labor Costs Subtotal		0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
ODCs																	
Prime Total		0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00

www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/

Attachments for Illustrative Purposes
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St. Louis Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
 Solicitation # 2024FP1-CCAP
 Attachment A - Price Proposal, Prime

Other Direct Costs (ODCs)			
Item	Unit	Rate	Total
Airfare	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Meals	0	\$59.00	\$0.00
Lodging	0	\$180.98	\$0.00
Ground Transportation	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Car Rental	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Parking	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mileage	0	\$0.67	\$0.00
Printing #1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing #2	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Delivery #1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Delivery #2	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subcontractor #1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subcontractor #2	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subcontractor #3	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subcontractor #4	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subcontractor #5	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total ODCs			\$0.00

<i>Out-of-Region Travel</i>	\$0.00
<i>In-Town Travel</i>	\$0.00
<i>Printing/Delivery</i>	\$0.00
<i>Subcontractors</i>	\$0.00
<i>Total</i>	\$0.00

Fixed Fee Rate 0

Assumptions:

www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/
 Attachments for Illustrative Purposes
 Editable Attachments Can be Accessed Online at:

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

Firm Name _____

My firm is proposing to perform work for the Council's project as: the prime firm. a subcontractor. a joint venture partner.

If your firm is proposing to perform work as a subcontractor or joint venture partner, provide the name of the prime firm / other partner:

A responding firm must provide in its submittal a fully completed Attachment B - Firm Information for itself and for **each** of its subcontractors / joint venture partners. This Attachment B includes the following forms:

- (1) Corporate Profile
- (2) Statement of Past Performance
- (3) Firm Responsibility Certification

Each form in this Attachment B must be completed in its entirety. Please type the information into the forms using Adobe Reader or other compatible Adobe product. The forms in this Attachment B contain rules, which means that many of the boxes / spaces will auto fill depending on your answers to the questions. If you have any issues with the forms please contact the Council's staff person designated in Section IX, Part A of the solicitation documents.

You are NOT permitted to substitute your own format or information for the forms included in this Attachment B.

If you need additional space to provide the information requested in this Attachment B, please use the form titled "Additional Information."

An authorized representative of your firm **must sign and date** the certification provided on Forms #2 and #3. **A typed signature is not acceptable.** The Council will use the information contained in this Attachment B during the evaluation and selection process. For additional information, refer to Section IV of the solicitation documents.

The Council may contact your firm to obtain additional information based on your firm's answers to the questions on this Attachment B.

If your firm is selected for a contract award, your firm and each of its subcontractors / joint venture partners may be required to complete, sign, and return the *Firm Responsibility Information - Detailed Questionnaire*, so that the Council can make a firm responsibility determination in accordance with Section IV, Part F of the solicitation documents. A copy of this questionnaire is provided in Appendix 4 of the solicitation documents.

Your firm should be aware that the Council may deem your firm's submittal non-responsive and reject the submittal for:

- (1) Failure to sign both Attachment B, Forms #2 and #3,**
- (2) Failure to provide all of the information requested in this Attachment B,**
- (3) Failure to provide a signed Attachment B for each subcontractor / joint venture partner, or**
- (4) Failure to provide sufficient information for the Council to make an initial responsibility determination.**

The Council reserves the right to waive minor errors, omissions, or technicalities in this Attachment B as determined to be in the best interest of the Council.

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

#1 - Corporate Profile

Your firm must provide the information requested below about its corporate structure, history, etc. If you need additional space to provide the information use the form titled "Additional Information."

A. Firm Information

Firm Name _____

Business Address (Street, City, State & Zip) _____

Provide a brief description of your firm's core business (e.g. the types of services provided, the types of clients served).

B. Corporate Formation

In which State was your firm organized or incorporated? _____ Is your firm a public company? a private company?

Type of Ownership _____ Year Established / Incorporated _____

Does your firm have a former name / year established? Yes No Does your firm have a parent company or a subsidiary? Yes No

If your firm has a former name / year established, a parent company, or a subsidiary, in the space provided below, please describe your firm's former name, year established, parent company name and location, or subsidiary name and location, as applicable.

C. FEIN / Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) / U.S. System for Award Management (SAM) Registration

FEIN _____ UEI _____ No UEI Is your firm registered with SAM? Yes CAGE Code _____ No

D. Business Registration

Is your firm registered to do business in Missouri? Yes No Is your firm registered to do business in Illinois? Yes No N/A

Firms must be properly registered to do business prior to beginning work for the project. If the IL business registration "N/A" box is checked, then only a MO business registration is required for the project.

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

#2 - Statement of Past Performance (pg. 1 of 2)

Firm Name _____

The following questions ask your firm to provide information about its past performance on the Council's projects, projects for other governmental entities, or in general. Your firm must indicate whether or not it has successfully completed past projects.

As described in Section IV of the solicitation documents, the Council will evaluate a responsive firm's past performance. As part of this evaluation, the Council will review the answers your firm provides on this Attachment B, Form #2 - Statement of Past Performance.

Your firm must answer each of the questions below and an authorized representative of your firm **must sign and date** the form. **A typed signature is not acceptable.**

The Council reserves the right to request additional information from your firm regarding the answers to the questions below.

A. Council Projects

1. Is your firm currently delinquent or past due on any monies owed to the Council? Yes No
2. In the previous 3 years, has your firm performed work for the Council? Yes No
 - (a) If "Yes," answer each of the following questions.
 - (i) How many projects has your firm completed for the Council in the previous 3 years? _____
 - (ii) Did your firm meet each project deadline, milestone, etc.? Yes No N/A
 - (iii) Did your firm complete each project on time? Yes No N/A
 - (iv) Did your firm complete each project within budget? Yes No N/A
 - (v) Did your firm have issues with client communication, community outreach, or similar? Yes No N/A
 - (vi) Did your firm receive any complaints from the Council regarding quality of work products? Yes No N/A
 - (vii) Were any of your firm's contracts terminated for any performance issues? Yes No N/A
 - (viii) Is your firm currently in breach or default of a Council contract? Yes No N/A

Firms that owe the Council monies or that are currently in breach or default of a Council contract may be deemed ineligible for a contract award.

B. Other Governmental Entity Projects

1. In the previous 3 years, has your firm performed work for any local, state, or federal governmental entity? Yes No
 - (a) If "Yes," answer each of the following questions.
 - (i) How many projects has your firm completed for a governmental entity in the previous 3 years? _____
 - (ii) Did your firm meet each project deadline, milestone, etc.? Yes No N/A
 - (iii) Did your firm complete each project on time? Yes No N/A
 - (iv) Did your firm complete each project within budget? Yes No N/A
 - (v) Did your firm have issues with client communication, community outreach, or similar? Yes No N/A
 - (vi) Did your firm receive any complaints from the entity regarding quality of work products? Yes No N/A
 - (vii) Were any of your firm's contracts terminated for any performance issues? Yes No N/A
 - (viii) Is your firm currently in breach or default of a contract with a governmental entity based upon a failure to perform? Yes No N/A
 - (ix) Provide the name of the **3 most recent and relevant** projects identified in sub-part (B)(1)(a)(i) and the name of the governmental entity.

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

#2 - Statement of Past Performance (pg. 2 of 2)

Firm Name _____

C. Other Projects

1. If your firm has **not** performed work for the Council or any local, state, or federal entity, answer the following questions with respect to your firm's projects that were completed within the previous 3 years and that are similar in size and scope to the Council's project.

- (a) Did your firm meet each project deadline, milestone, etc.? Yes No N/A
- (b) Did your firm complete each project on time? Yes No N/A
- (c) Did your firm complete each project within budget? Yes No N/A
- (d) Did your firm have issues with client communication, community outreach, or similar? Yes No N/A
- (e) Did your firm receive any complaints from the client regarding quality of work products? Yes No N/A
- (f) Were any of your firm's contracts terminated for any performance issues? Yes No N/A
- (g) Is your firm currently in breach or default of a contract with a client based upon a failure to perform? Yes No N/A

(h) Provide the name of **3 most recent and relevant** projects completed by your firm and the name of the client.

D. All Projects

1. In the previous 3 years, has your firm ever had a client (e.g. person / entity contracting with your firm) that:

- (a) sued to compel performance? Yes No
- (b) sued to recover damages based upon the alleged failure of your firm to perform as required by the contract? Yes No
- (c) called upon a surety to perform the work? Yes No

Please provide any additional information that explains any performance issues or any other information that you believe will help the Council evaluate your firm's past performance. If you need more space, use the form titled "Additional Information."

CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify that I am authorized to sign this Statement of Past Performance on behalf of my firm and that the information contained on this form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Name & Title of Authorized Official _____

Signature of Authorized Official _____

Date _____

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

#3 - Firm Responsibility Certification (pg. 1 of 2)

Firm Name _____

As described in Section IV, Part A, Sub-Part 2 of the solicitation documents, the Council will not award a contract for the project to a firm that the Council's determines is not responsible. For each responsive submittal, the Council will conduct an initial review of the firm's responsibility. As part of this initial responsibility determination, the Council will review the answers your firm provides in its submittal and on this Attachment B, Form #3 - Firm Responsibility Certification. More information regarding the Council's responsibility determination can be found in Section IV, Part A, Sub-Part 2 of the solicitation documents.

Your firm must answer each of the questions below and an authorized representative of your firm **must sign and date** the certification. **A typed signature is not acceptable.**

If your firm is selected for a contract award, your firm, and each of its subcontractors / joint venture partners may be required to complete, sign, and return the *Firm Responsibility Information - Detailed Questionnaire*, so that the Council can make a firm responsibility determination in accordance with Section IV, Part F of the solicitation documents. A copy of this questionnaire is provided in Appendix 4 to the solicitation documents. A firm selected for a contract award for this project (including subcontractors / joint venture partners) may be deemed not responsible or ineligible for contract award if the firm fails to complete the questionnaire, as requested, or if the firm's questionnaire reveals any unexplained, material misstatements on this Attachment B, Form #3 - Firm Responsibility Certification.

The Council reserves the right to request additional information from your firm regarding the answers to the questions below.

1. Did you review the Firm Responsibility Questionnaire provided in Appendix 4 to the solicitation documents? Yes No
2. Based on your review of the Firm Responsibility Questionnaire, does your firm have any issues or deficiencies that may lead the Council to making a finding of non-responsibility? Yes No
If "Yes," use the form titled "Additional Information" to disclose the issues or deficiencies.
3. Is your firm able and willing to provide the documentation necessary to demonstrate that it has, or has the ability to obtain, the financial, technical, and administrative capacity and resources to successfully complete the Council's project within the estimated performance period? Yes No
If "No," use the form titled "Additional Information" to explain.
4. Does your firm's insurance coverage meet the minimum requirements described in the *Draft Contract Terms & Conditions, Paragraph 5*? Yes No
If "No," use the form titled "Additional Information" to explain.
5. Based on your review of the the Council's Conflicts of Interest Policy and the Conflicts of Interest Questionnaire & Disclosure Statement (see Appendix 3), will your firm need to disclose:
 - (a) a conflict of interest with respect to this procurement action (e.g. access to non-public information that provides or may appear to provide your firm with an unfair competitive advantage)? Yes No
 - (b) a conflict of interest with respect to the contract that will be awarded for this project (e.g. an interest that will impair or may appear to impair your firm's ability to objectively perform work for the Council's project)? Yes No*If "Yes," use the form titled "Additional Information" to briefly describe the nature of the conflict. If selected for a contract award, your firm will be required to fully disclose any conflict on the Conflicts of Interest Questionnaire & Disclosure Statement.*

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

#3 - Firm Responsibility Certification (pg. 2 of 2)

Firm Name _____

6. Within the previous 3 years has your firm, any affiliate, any predecessor company or entity, owner, director, officer, partner, principal, or proprietor been subject to any of the following:
- (a) a government suspension or debarment? Yes No
 - (b) a governmental entity's rejection (including pending actions) of any bid or disapproval of any proposed subcontract for lack of responsibility? Yes No
 - (c) a governmental entity's denial or revocation of prequalification? Yes No
 - (d) a voluntary exclusion agreement? Yes No
 - (e) a finding of non-responsibility for any reason by a federal or state governmental entity / agency? Yes No
 - (f) had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default? Yes No
 - (g) an indictment for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local) for, fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property? Yes No
 - (h) a civil judgment rendered against it for commission of any of the offenses enumerated in Question 6, Part (g)? Yes No
 - (i) a conviction of the commission of any of the offenses enumerated in Question 6, Part (g)? Yes No
 - (j) a grant of immunity with respect to the commission of any of the offenses enumerated in Question 6, Part (g)? Yes No
- If "Yes" to any of (a) through (j), use the form titled "Additional Information" to explain.*
7. Is your firm, any affiliate, any predecessor company or entity, owner, director, officer, partner, principal, or proprietor currently subject to any pending actions as enumerated in Question 6, Parts (a) through (j)? Yes No
- If "Yes," use the form titled "Additional Information" to explain.*

CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify that I am authorized to sign this Firm Responsibility Certification on behalf of my firm and that the information contained on this form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Name & Title of Authorized Official _____

Signature of Authorized Official _____

Date _____

ATTACHMENT B Firm Information

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

Additional Information

Use this form to provide any information that you either could not provide on Forms #1 - 3 or that explains any of the answers you provided on Form #3. You may attach as many of these sheets that you need to provide the requested information.

Please make sure that you indicate the form and question for which you are providing additional information (i.e. Form #3, Box #2; Form #1, Former Firm Names, etc.)

Firm Name _____

www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/
Attachments for Illustrative Purposes
Editable Attachments Can be Accessed Online at:

ATTACHMENT C Affirmative Action Checklist

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

Responding Firm _____

Please answer each of the questions below.

1. Does your firm have an affirmative action plan? Yes No

2. What date was the plan adopted? N/A Date

3. In the spaces below, provide the name and contact information for your firm's affirmative action officer. My firm does not have a person who is responsible for affirmative action matters.

Name _____ Title _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

4. How many persons are employed by your firm? _____

www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/
Attachments for Illustrative Purposes
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ATTACHMENT D Contract Terms & Conditions Comments

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

Use this form to notify the Council about any concerns you may have about the draft contract terms and conditions. The draft contract terms and conditions can be found as Appendix 2 on the Council's website at www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/. These concerns can include, but are not limited to: questions, comments, or requests for changes.

If the draft contract terms and conditions are acceptable and you do not have any questions, comments, or requests for changes, please check the "No" box.

If you have any questions, comments, or request for changes please check the "Yes" box and use the space provided below to explain your concerns. Please make sure that you reference the applicable contract Paragraph and Part number.

This form must be signed and returned to the Council with your submittal.

It is the responsibility of each responding firm to review the draft contract terms and conditions. The Council may not consider a firm's requests for changes to the contract if the firm's concerns are not noted on this form. It is within the Council's sole discretion to consider requests for contract changes that the selected consultant did not include on this form.

It is within the Council's discretion to decide whether or not to change any contract terms and conditions, even if concerns are noted on this form. Any terms that are required by state or federal rules, regulations, or statutes or by the Council's agreement with a funding agency are not negotiable and are not subject to change.

No - The firm does not have any questions, comments, or requests for changes.

Yes - The firm has a question, comment, or request for a change as noted below.

Attachments for Illustrative Purposes
Editable Attachments Can be Accessed Online at: www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/

Responding Firm _____

Name & Title of Authorized Official _____

Signature of Authorized Official _____

Date _____

ATTACHMENT E

RFP Minimum Requirements Checklist

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

This form includes a list of all of the items that need to be included in your submittal. Some items listed on this form may not be required (shown below with an "N/A" option). For those items that are not listed in Section III, Part B of the RFP, check the "N/A" box. Refer to Section III, Part B of the RFP for a complete description of the items listed below. Review Section III, Part A of the RFP for the Submittal Formatting and Other Requirements, including the number of copies that need to be submitted.

Sub-Part 1 - Approach & Qualifications

- 1. Letter of Interest
- Includes statement committing submittal for 90 days*
- Includes point of contact information for questions*
- 2. Project Approach
- Includes Project Schedule*
- 3. Qualifications
- (a) Experience Summaries
- (b) Team Org Chart N/A
- (c) Addresses
- (d) Time Availability for Key Personnel Form
- (e) Prior Work Experience / Past Performance
- (i) Prior Work Experience / Past Performance Forms
- (ii) Work Sample(s) N/A

Sub-Part 2 - Project Price

Attachment A

Sub-Part 3 - Firm Information

Attachment B

Sub-Part 4 - Other Forms & Certifications

- 1. Attachment C
- 2. Attachment D
- 3. Attachment E
- 4. D/S/W/MBE Participation
- (a) 0% Statement N/A
- (b) Attachments F & G N/A

Responding Firm _____

Name & Title of Authorized Official _____

Signature of Authorized Official _____

Date _____

www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/

Attachments for Illustrative Purposes
 Editable Attachments Can be Accessed Online at:

ATTACHMENT F
D/S/W/MBE Participation Form

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

Total Proposed Project Costs

D/S/W/MBE Information

Type of Firm (Check all that apply)	Name & Address	\$ Value of Work	Estimated % Participation
1. <input type="checkbox"/> DBE <input type="checkbox"/> SBE <input type="checkbox"/> WBE <input type="checkbox"/> MBE	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
2. <input type="checkbox"/> DBE <input type="checkbox"/> SBE <input type="checkbox"/> WBE <input type="checkbox"/> MBE	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
3. <input type="checkbox"/> DBE <input type="checkbox"/> SBE <input type="checkbox"/> WBE <input type="checkbox"/> MBE	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
4. <input type="checkbox"/> DBE <input type="checkbox"/> SBE <input type="checkbox"/> WBE <input type="checkbox"/> MBE	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
5. <input type="checkbox"/> DBE <input type="checkbox"/> SBE <input type="checkbox"/> WBE <input type="checkbox"/> MBE	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
Total		<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>

In general, any work performed by a firm that is not a D/S/W/MBE cannot be counted toward the D/S/W/MBE participation for the project. This includes work that a D/S/W/MBE subcontracts to a non-D/S/W/MBE. A D/S/W/MBE that has been included as part of the project team must disclose its intent to subcontract a portion of its work to a non-D/S/W/MBE.

Will any of the D/S/W/MBEs listed above subcontract out any of its work to a non-D/S/W/MBE? Yes No

If "Yes," please provide a description of the work that will be subcontracted to a non-D/S/W/MBE and the estimated percentage of work to be subcontracted.

The undersigned submits the above list of D/S/W/MBEs that will be used to accomplish, at least in part, the work described in the solicitation documents.

Responding Firm _____

Name & Title of Authorized Official _____

Signature of Authorized Official _____

Date _____

ATTACHMENT G
Letter of Intent to Perform as a D/S/W/MBE

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

Prime Contractor Name _____

The undersigned intends to perform work in connection with the above captioned project as one of the following (*check one*):

- a prime contractor a subcontractor
 a joint venture other (*please specify*)

The undersigned represents that it is a certified (*check all that apply*):

- DBE SBE
 WBE MBE

The undersigned is prepared to perform the work described below in connection with the above captioned project.

What is the dollar value of the undersigned's work? _____

In general, any work performed by a firm that is not a D/S/W/MBE cannot be counted toward the D/S/W/MBE participation for the project. This includes work that a D/S/W/MBE subcontracts to a non-D/S/W/MBE. A D/S/W/MBE that has been included as part of the project team must disclose its intent to subcontract a portion of its work to a non-D/S/W/MBE.

Will the undersigned subcontract out any of its work to a non-D/S/W/MBE? Yes No

If "Yes," please provide a description of the work that will be subcontracted to a non-D/S/W/MBE and the estimated percentage of work to be subcontracted.

The undersigned submits this letter of intent to perform as a D/S/W/MBE and certifies that it is prepared to perform the work described in this letter for the dollar value indicated above and that the information provided in this letter is accurate and true to the best of his/her knowledge.

D/S/W/MBE Name _____

Name & Title of Authorized Official _____

Signature of Authorized Official _____

Date _____

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

INSTRUCTIONS:

A responding firm must provide in its submittal a fully completed Prior Work Experience / Past Performance form for **each** of the past projects that it is using as examples of prior work - for either itself or for one of its subcontractors / joint venture partners. The minimum number of past projects that is required is described in Section III, Part B, Sub-Part 1, #3(e) of the solicitation documents.

All of the requested information must be provided. Please type the information into the forms using Adobe Reader or other compatible Adobe product. This form may contain rules, which means that many of the boxes / spaces will auto fill depending on your answers to the questions. If you have any issues with the form please contact the Council's staff person designated in Section IX, Part A of the solicitation documents.

You are NOT permitted to substitute your own format or information for this form.

If you need additional space to provide the information requested in this form, please use the form titled "Additional Information."

The Council and the selection committee will use the information contained in this form during the evaluation and selection process to assess your firm's work experience and past performance. For additional information, refer to Section IV of the solicitation documents.

The Council may contact your firm to obtain additional information based on your firm's answers to the questions on this form.

Note that the Council understands that, due to confidentiality agreements, some of the information requested on this form may be considered confidential; therefore, the Council does not expect firms to provide any confidential information in response to the requirements described in Section III, Part B, #3(e) of the solicitation documents. However, to the extent possible, firms should avoid using project descriptions from those clients that restrict information sharing. If this cannot be avoided, then a responding firm must provide as much non-confidential information as possible. The information provided must allow the Council to determine that the firm's projects meets the requirements described in Section III, Part B, Sub-Part 1, #3(e) of the solicitation documents and that the firm has a history of successful past performance. Responding firms should be aware that if the Council is not provided sufficient information, then the firm's submittal may be deemed non-responsive and rejected or the Council may determine that the firm is not responsible and, therefore, ineligible to be awarded a contract for the project.

Prior Work Experience / Past Performance

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

Firm Name _____

My firm is proposing to perform work for the Council's project as: the prime firm. a subcontractor. a joint venture partner.

If your firm is proposing to perform work as a subcontractor or joint venture partner, provide the name of the prime firm / other partner:

A. Project Information

Name _____

Location (City, State, Zip) _____

Year(s) project work performed _____ Select the budget range for this project _____ Project role Prime Sub

Provide a brief description of the project and the services that your firm provided for the project.

Name of work sample provided _____

For the work sample, identify the key person(s) your firm has proposed for the Council's project who contributed to the work sample and describe the person's role in the development of the work sample. *Example - John Smith is the project manager proposed for the Council's project. Smith also served as the project manager for the project described above and was the primary author of the work sample.*

B. Client Information

POC Name & Title _____

Organization Name _____ Organization Type _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

C. Performance

1. How many projects has your firm completed for this client in the previous 3 years? _____
2. Was the project completion date extended for any reason? If yes, provide an explanation in "Additional Information". Yes No
3. Was the project budget adjusted for any reason? If yes, provide an explanation in "Additional Information". Yes No
4. Did your firm have issues with client communication, community outreach, or similar? Yes No
5. Did your firm receive any complaints from the client regarding quality of work products? Yes No

Any schedule or budget deviations or performance issues must be explained using the "Additional Information" section of this form. Failure to explain issues could lead to your firm being deemed non-responsive or a finding of non-responsibility.

Prior Work Experience / Past Performance

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

Additional Information

Use this page to provide information that explains any schedule or budget deviations and any of the performance issues you noted on this form. If you cannot provide all of the required information, use this page to provide an explanation. You may attach as many of these sheets that you need to provide the required information.

Please make sure that you indicate the question for which you are providing additional information (i.e. Project schedule, Performance question #1, #2, etc.)

Firm Name _____

Project Name _____

www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contracting-opportunities/
Attachments for Illustrative Purposes
Editable Attachments Can be Accessed Online at:

Time Availability for Key Personnel

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - # 2024RFP1-CCAP

For each key person that will be assigned to the project, please provide the information requested below. The information regarding current or anticipated projects should reflect only those projects that will be or likely will be occurring during the estimated performance period of the project (see Section II of the solicitation documents). The key personnel listed below should be the same persons identified in Section III, Part B, Sub-Part 1, #3 of the solicitation documents.

Responding Firm _____

Name & Title	Project Role	Firm	List of Current or Anticipated Projects	% of Time Committed to Other Projects	% of Time Committed to the Council's Project

Attach as many of these forms as needed to capture all of your firm's key personnel.

www.ewgateway.org/about-us/what-we-do/doing-business-with-ewg/contacting-opportunities/

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