

Sustainable Communities

Request for Expression of Interest

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1 Background

PEI has long had a strong reputation as a leader in the development of wind resources and the use of biomass infrastructure. In spite of this, Prince Edward Island continues to rely heavily on off-Island sources of imported fossil fuels. High energy costs have impact all Islanders, businesses and institutions. New measures must be put in place to secure the Island's sustainability over the long term, in terms of the environment, the economy, community viability and energy independence. Action must be taken to mitigate our climate challenges and help the Province reach its emission reduction targets of 40 percent by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

The Government of Prince Edward Island is committed to developing and implementing programs that will help support a more sustainable and economically robust future for Island communities. Having recently completed best practice site visits to world-leading, sustainable communities in Europe – including the inspirational, energy-positive, carbon neutral Samsø island in Denmark – the Province is now working to support PEI's largest scale community-based, community-led energy systems initiative, and through this Request for Expressions of Interest is beginning the process of **identifying candidate communities on PEI interested in receiving more information about the program as well as access to required expertise to further explore the opportunities for their communities**. The Province is encouraging communities to bring forward energy projects or models that suit the uniqueness and individuality of their community. These projects could consist of electricity generation, centralized heating and cooling, cogeneration, community efficiency, or energy recovery from waste on a micro-scale.

It is envisioned that Government will work directly with communities to facilitate access to the technical expertise required to analyze appropriate and feasible options for the community, and that the program will also assist with the initial infrastructure costs. Over the long term, participating communities will save money and have increased flexibility and sustainability in their energy futures.

2 Program Details

This Sustainable Communities Initiative will be launched in February 2020. This new initiative is a program tailor-made to rural communities and will provide support to communities interested in implementing sustainable energy generation models. Communities – for the purposes of this initiative – are made up of any group of like-minded people residing on PEI willing to collectively pursue, champion, and own a renewable energy project committed to the sustainability of Prince Edward Island. The Province of PEI will, at a later date following this initial request for interest, issue a call to municipalities and communities within municipalities (“communities”) to submit detailed proposals for sustainable energy projects customized to their community. The Province recognizes that resources, including technical expertise, will be required for communities to develop detailed proposals.

Through the present Request for Expression of Interest (REOI), government is soliciting written responses from PEI communities interested in being added to a roster of candidates for the Sustainable Communities Initiative. Representatives from interested candidate communities will be invited to receive information and participate in processes where resources (information, tools, and subject matter expertise) will be provided to support an eventual project proposal to the Sustainable Communities Initiative. Communities will be chosen based on the feasibility of their suggested energy project, community engagement and support, and the potential impact (scale, environmental impacts, community impacts, economic activity, project costs), and potential partner funding opportunities.

3 Response Requirements

Respondents are encouraged to prepare EOI submissions that are concise, specific and descriptive. Respondents need not demonstrate a full and complete understanding of new, innovative or underlying technical aspects of sustainable, renewable technology and infrastructure to maximize their evaluation points. It is sufficient for candidate communities to define and describe their community, detail current infrastructure energy systems, if any, costs/usage, as well as areas where efficiencies may be achieved.

The EOI must: in no more than five pages

1. Describe your community and include detail on:
 - a. Community residents/buildings (e.g., numbers, demographics)
 - b. Municipal/community infrastructure and assets, if any
 - c. Geographic and topographic features (e.g., land area, farmland, river)
 - d. Community industry and businesses
2. Outline your community's current sources of heat and electricity, and provide detail on approximate costs/usage, if information is available
3. Describe your community's interest in and commitment to sustainable, renewable and/or green initiatives
4. Describe your vision for your community's future, given the opportunity for your community to participate in the new Sustainable Communities Initiative, and outline new developments you would be interested in exploring through funding and infrastructure from this initiative
5. If your community has identified or has already begun exploring a sustainable energy project, please describe the project to the best of your ability

To help ensure consistency in responses and facilitate the evaluation process, EOI responses should be prepared as follows:

- Table of Contents
- Contact information for candidate community project lead or "Champion"
- Core response content (#1 through #5 as outlined above)
- Appendices, if any

To be considered for the first round of the feasibility studies, EOI responses are to be submitted by email by May 1, 2020 to Dean Lund, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy rdlund@gov.pe.ca;

EOI's will continue to be accepted until November 1, 2020 for possible additional rounds of feasibility studies.

Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy
Dean Lund Project Lead, Sustainable Communities rdlund@gov.pe.ca (902) 393-2569

4 Terms & Conditions

Proponents to Bear Their Own Costs

The Proponent shall bear all costs associated with or incurred in the preparation and presentation of its proposal.

Proposal to be retained by the Province

The Province will not return the proposal or any accompanying documentation submitted by a Proponent.

Conflict of Interest and Prohibited Conduct

The Province may disqualify a Proponent for any conduct, situation or circumstance, determined by the Province, in its sole and absolute discretion, to constitute a Conflict of Interest.

The Province may disqualify a Proponent, or terminate an agreement entered into if the Province, in its sole and absolute discretion, determines that the Proponent has engaged in any conduct prohibited by this EOI.

Communications

Any media or communications activities must be undertaken in partnership and coordination with the Province.

No Lobbying

A Proponent shall not, in relation to this REOI or the evaluation and selection process, engage directly or indirectly in any form of political or other lobbying whatsoever to influence the selection of the successful Proponent.

Illegal or Unethical Conduct

Proponents shall not engage in any illegal business practices, including without limitation activities such as bid-rigging, price-fixing, bribery, fraud, coercion or collusion. Proponents shall not engage in any unethical conduct, including lobbying, as described above, or other inappropriate communications; offering gifts to any employees, officers, agents, elected or appointed officials or other representatives of the Province; submitting proposals containing misrepresentations or other misleading or inaccurate information; or any other conduct that compromises or may be seen to compromise the competitive process provided for in this REOI.

Rejection of Proposals

The Province may reject a proposal based on inappropriate conduct, including but not limited to the following:

- a. illegal or unethical conduct as described above;
- b. the refusal of the Proponent to honour its commitments;
- c. any conduct, situation or circumstance determined by the Province, in its sole and absolute discretion, to have constituted an undisclosed Conflict of Interest;
- d. the Province's past experience with any Candidate within the 18 month period prior to the Submission

Confidential Information of Proponent

A Proponent should identify any information in its proposal or any accompanying documentation supplied in confidence for which confidentiality is to be maintained by the Province. The confidentiality of such information will be maintained by the Province, except as otherwise

required by law or by order of a court or tribunal. Proponents are advised that their proposals will, as necessary, be disclosed, on a confidential basis, to advisers retained by the Province to advise or assist with the RFP process, including the evaluation of proposals.

Proponents are also advised that all documents forming part of the RFP process, including all submitted proposals, are subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. F-15.01 (“FOIPP”). A copy of FOIPP is available online at:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/justice-and-public-safety/freedom-information-and-protection-privacy-foipp>

Reserved Rights, Limitation of Liability and Governing Law

Reserved Rights of the Province

The Province reserves the right to:

- a. make public the names of any or all Proponents;
- b. request written clarification in relation to a Proponent’s proposal;
- c. waive minor formalities that do not constitute Mandatory Submission requirements or Mandatory Technical requirements;
- d. verify with any Proponent or with a third party any information set out in a proposal;
- e. check references other than those provided by any Proponent;
- f. disqualify any Proponent whose proposal contains misrepresentations or any other inaccurate or misleading information;
- g. disqualify any Proponent or the proposal of any Proponent who has engaged in conduct prohibited by this EOI
- h. amend this EOI process without liability at any time prior to the execution of a written agreement between the Province and a Proponent. These changes are issued by way of addendum in the manner set out in this RFP;
- i. cancel this EOI process without liability at any time prior to the execution of a written agreement between the Province and a Proponent. A cancellation is communicated by way of addendum in the manner set out in this EOI. The Province may in its sole discretion issue a new EOI or the same or similar Deliverables; or
- j. reject any or all proposals.

1. These reserved rights are in addition to any other express rights or any other rights that may be implied in the circumstances, or that the Province has at law.