

From: Blue Horizons Project Chair <chair@bluehorizonsproject.com>
Subject: Federal Funding Opportunities for BHP/ 100% Goal
To: Jackie Hamstead <Jackie.Hamstead@buncombecounty.org>; Kiera Bulan <kbulan@ashevillenc.gov>; Jeremiah P. LeRoy <jeremiah.leroy@buncombecounty.org>; Bridget Herring <bherring@ashevillenc.gov>; Maggie Ullman <MaggieUllman@avlcouncil.com>; Brownie W. Newman <brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org>; Parker Sloan <parker.sloan@buncombecounty.org>
Cc: ian@landofsky.org <ian@landofsky.org>; sara@landofsky.org <sara@landofsky.org>; Jamie Wine <jamie@greenbuilt.org>
Sent: May 15, 2024 2:05 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: NREL 21-RFP-2024-10065+Solicitation.pdf, Proposal NREL Grant- local stakeholders - Google Docs.pdf

Hello Bridget, Jeremiah, Kiera, and Jackie,
and Commissioner Newman, Commissioner Sloan, and Councilmember Ullman,

There has been a lot of discussion at the BHPCC about the potential grant funds that are available from the federal agencies to support the shared goal of transitioning to clean energy. I am aware that it is really beyond the ability of the council to administer these grants and want to kick off a dialogue with you, our government partners.

I believe that Buncombe County is well positioned to take advantage of the C2C opportunity from NREL, full RFP attached as well as a brief summary of what I see as the potential goals for the grant, within that summary is a link to the start of the grant application. This summary is informed by initial conversations with City/ County staff and Jennifer Bennet from Duke Energy, as well as a longer conversation with Land of Sky staff and Jamie from GBA who are also included on this email. You can provide feedback by commenting directly in this [REDACTED] document, or send feedback to myself and Jamie.

I am sure many of you are aware of the EECBG and Climate Pollution Reduction funds coming to other communities in NC for weatherization and low income solar installations. We could also pursue these funds, as a compliment to the forthcoming Solar For All program. [Here is the link to the EECBG FAQ](#); that application is due in October.

Federal grant applications and reporting can be cumbersome, we understand. Land of Sky staff, Sarah and Ian, have experience and are willing to support this work and may even serve as the recipient of the funds. If the City or the County also have additional grant writing capacity, please let us know. The grant writer for Durham County has been essential in securing funds for the [EBERP program](#), and that the Centralina and Central Pines COGs have been successful in getting funds for subsidized solar.

It would be beneficial for us to set up a call to talk about these funding opportunities. We have a standing meeting coming up next week to plan the BHPCC meeting at noon on May 22. We could extend the meeting for this purpose -- though time is essential with the NREL application due on June 15th. At minimum we need a letter of support from the City, County, and Duke.

I look forward to continued conversation and to bringing resources to support our vision for a sustainable and clean energy future in Buncombe County.

Sincerely
Michelle on behalf of the
Blue Horizons Project Community Council

--
Michelle Myers
Chair, [Blue Horizons Project Community Council](#)
c:) (828) 551-9402

National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Managed and Operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC

Request for Proposals (RFP) Number RFP-2024-10065

“DOE Clean Energy to Communities – In-Depth Technical Partnerships”

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY

This solicitation is being conducted under the procedures for competitive subcontracts established by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). NREL will award a subcontract based on the following:

BEST VALUE SELECTION

All project requirements being met with the best combination of:

- Technical factors (based on qualitative merit criteria),
- and Evaluated price (or cost)

Issue Date: **4/1/2024** Due Date: **6/14/2024** Time Due: **5:00pm** Mountain Time

To encourage participation there will be two (2) rounds of questions, dates are as follows:

Round 1 Technical questions must be received in writing no later than 04/19/24

Round 2 Technical questions must be received in writing no later than 05/17/24

Written questions concerning this solicitation document and its requirements will be answered in writing. In response to technical questions, NREL will issue an amendment to this solicitation document that will formally provide all the questions and answers. Each amendment to the solicitation will be posted to SAM.gov within a week of each technical question due date.

- 1. Solicitation Type** Best Value, Tradeoff, Selection
Firm Fixed Price, Subcontract

SUBMIT OFFERS TO AND REQUEST INFORMATION FROM THE NREL RFP CONTACT BELOW

- 2. NREL RFP Contact** Kim Lopez, Subcontract Administrator
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
15013 Denver West Parkway, MS: RSF041
Golden, CO 80401

Email: Kimberley.Lopez@nrel.gov

Electronic copies of forms and appendices can be found at:

<http://www.nrel.gov/workingwithus/standard-terms.html>

[Procurement Forms | NREL](#)

3. Project description:

A. Background

Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) is a collaborative research effort administered by NREL and supported by DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). C2C seeks to foster local clean energy transitions across multiple sectors (grid, buildings, and transportation).

Through C2C activities, the DOE will bring electric utilities, local governments, and community-based organizations together to build confidence in the feasibility of existing clean energy ambitions, develop plans and actions that are technically valid and data-driven, and drive implementation decisions to ensure more socially equitable clean energy-sector outcomes.

The C2C partnership is structured as follows:

1. DOE National Labs will provide multi-year technical assistance (36 months) to selected community teams. The scope of the technical support will be co-created with the selected community teams to include analysis, modeling, and validation of cross-sector clean energy solutions to accelerate the design, demonstration, development, and deployment of a community's existing clean energy plans. It will also equip communities with world-leading analytical tools, expertise, and access to capabilities such as the Advanced Research on Integrated Energy Systems (ARIES) research platform, which allows communities to de-risk and validate their clean energy solutions prior to deployment.
 - Previous topics of technical assistance from the National Labs include:
 - Integrated planning scenarios to achieve 100% clean energy transition. Bringing together local governments and electric utilities who have aggressive clean energy goals, such as 100% clean energy, to determine viable policy, program, and technical pathways to reach 100% clean energy. Primarily focused on the electric utility but could also incorporate plans for 100% clean transportation planning.
 - Validating operations of existing grid and new clean energy assets. This can include an in-depth look at extreme cases to ensure the stability of the power grid with existing infrastructure. For example, examining how large-scale generators would operate in a local grid without affecting their performance, as was done for Fairbanks, Alaska. By recreating the existing grid, National Labs can demonstrate different control strategies and locations that would be suitable for new renewable energy facilities.
 - Design and operation of large campus or district-scale microgrids. Supporting microgrids solutions that work in community-specific conditions, such as, but not limited to, remote communities that are moving away from diesel. Microgrid work could also involve the integration of small-scale hydrogen for long-duration storage in a microgrid.
2. Selected teams will receive subcontract funding to support hiring staff or consultants, facilitation and community engagement support, or other activities. (Organizations eligible to receive subcontract funding include: local governments, community-based organizations, and public power electric utilities.) The selected teams will be responsible for soliciting broader community input on clean energy projects or

programs and incorporate it into technical activities to ensure results are aligned with the community's priorities and context.

C2C goal is to provide technical assistance to address *cross-sectoral* issues in an integrated fashion. Cross-sectoral in this context refers to issues that span multiple topic areas in ways that must be considered holistically to appropriately address (see Figure 1). These topic areas can include: clean power, mobility, grid, and buildings. Additional topics such as energy security, resilience, disaster preparedness, and work force and economic development in the context of the above topic areas are also eligible for C2C. Importantly, equity and environmental justice considerations will be integrated throughout all program activities.

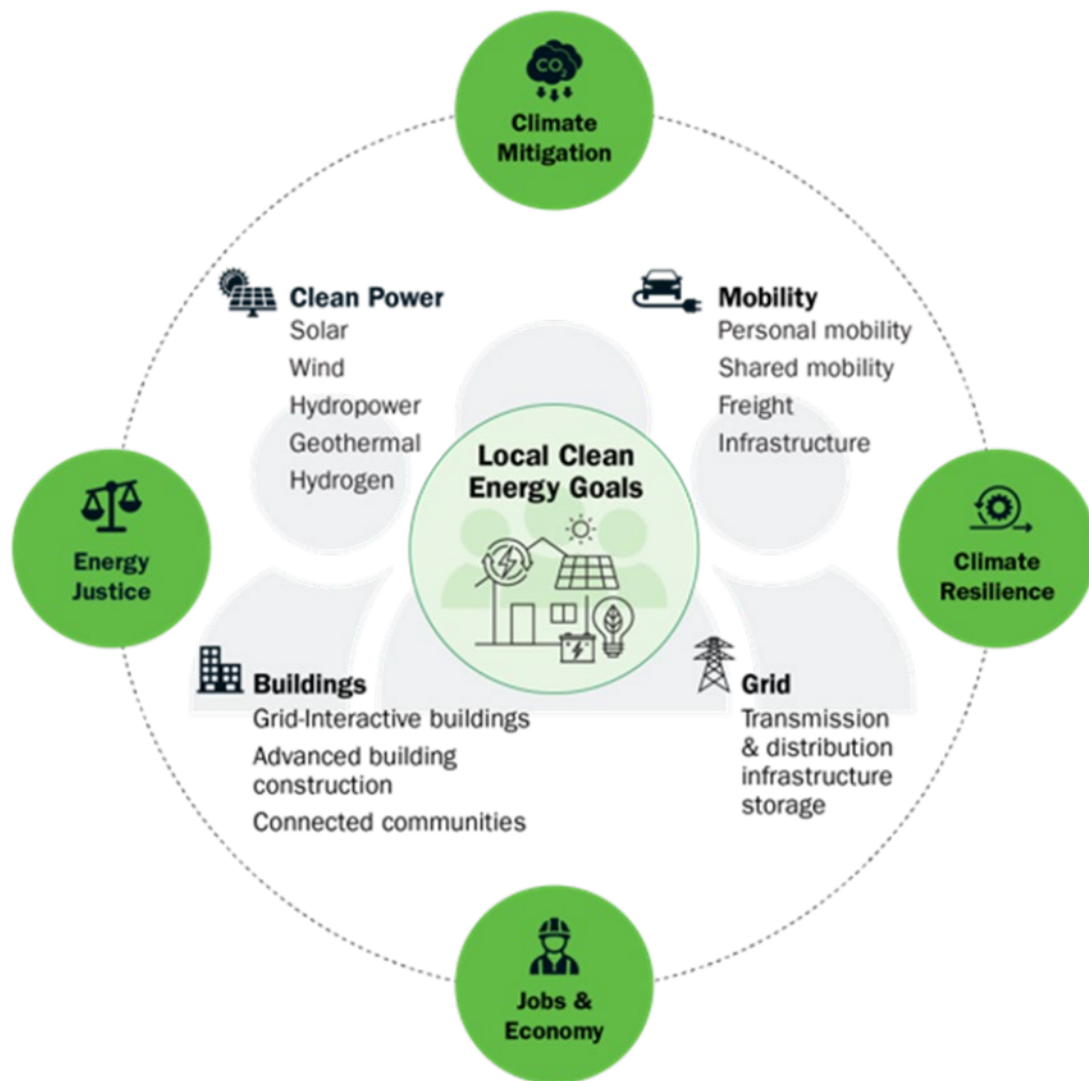


Figure 1. Potential Topic Areas

Potential individual topics that could be combined holistically include:

- **Electricity generation**: Create validated scenarios of how communities can achieve 100% or other renewable energy goals, in order helps align the visions of electric utilities, local governments, and community-based organizations. Identify the potential for and trade-offs between different low-carbon generation and storage technologies that meet community clean energy goals. Evaluate the potential for behind-the-meter generating resources to meet demand locally.
- **Mobility**: Quantify energy and greenhouse gases (GHG) impacts from emerging transportation technologies, systems, and services, which can include equitable EV adoption, charging network design, or evaluating the mobility energy productivity (a measure of accessibility that includes energy efficiency) of novel mobility technologies such as on-demand transit and/or micromobility systems (e.g., shared electric bikes), electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) and other emerging mobility technologies. Accessibility impacts to goods, services, and employment, and their associated major activity centers and mobility hubs (retail centers, airports, medical facilities, education) are encouraged along with parallel impacts of new mobility across building, land use, grid, and public transit.
- **Buildings**: Develop strategies that help address community needs (e.g., housing, energy bill/burden reductions) and support cross-sector decarbonization through a combination of building energy efficiency measures, electrification of end uses, demand-side management, building control systems, and distributed energy resources such as solar power, battery storage, and building-integrated EV charging. Ensure resilience and reliability of building systems to withstand events such as natural disasters and extreme weather so that communities may safely ride out periods of service interruptions.

Applying teams will consist at a minimum of at least one representative from a local government (including tribal government), their electric utility, and community-based organizations serving the applying team. The applying team will also indicate which organization will serve as the lead organization to act as the Subcontractor. C2C encourages applying teams to reach out to as broad of local network as possible when developing their proposal.

Stated support from additional relevant stakeholders, such as universities, regional organizations, trade organizations, metropolitan planning organizations, among others, will also make for a stronger proposal.

For each organization in the applying team, there must be at least one designated representative who has the authority to make decisions on behalf of their organization, the time to engage with the C2C team, and the awareness of the local context to appropriately represent the community throughout the engagement. The lead organization will be required to propose at least two representatives, a primary and secondary.

B. Objectives

The objective of C2C is to connect local stakeholder teams (local governments, community-based organization(s), and their electric utility) with technical expertise at DOE's national laboratories to support the planning and implementation of innovative clean energy solutions that span the intersection of the electrical grid, buildings, and transportation; C2C does not intend to provide funding for commercially available off-the-shelf technology. Technical assistance activities will leverage National Lab capabilities such as the ARIES platform.

C. Scope

The final scope of work will be determined upon award selection to fit the successful awardee(s)' specific project following the proposal selection and solicitation process. Based upon the Statement of Objectives (SOO) and anticipated activities presented herein, the Offeror will propose a scope of work which, upon selection of the successful offer, will be converted to a Project Work Statement (PWS) by NREL. The PWS will be transmitted to the successful Offeror for agreement and incorporated into the resultant subcontract.

National labs will leverage their extensive array of modeling, analysis, and evaluation capabilities to develop and vet pathways to clean energy that incorporate the challenges and opportunities of each selected community. Detailed simulations of potential scenarios using both software and hardware will focus on de-risking the investments that communities will make to implement new solutions. Insights gained from these engagements will be disseminated to a broader audience, including other communities that may be tackling similar challenges, and place-based technical assistance programs so that DOE may improve how it supports communities.

It is anticipated that project execution will occur over two phases. Phase 1 being the initial work scope to address the Offerors proposed individual topic, and phase 2 which will take the technical assistance provided by the National Laboratories to further develop the topic scope and deliverables. Each Offeror will develop a scope for Phase 1 of their project to be submitted to this solicitation. Phase 2 will be negotiated with successful Offers once National Labs have provided sufficient technical assistance to guide the development of their project.

D. Qualification Requirements

Project teams must include at a minimum an electric utility, a local government (including sub-state regional organizations, cities, counties, and tribal government), and at least one community-based organization. Work is to be conducted within the U.S and its territories and foreign entities are not eligible to participate.

National laboratories, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), and federal entities are not eligible as team members.

E. Period of Performance

The anticipated period of performance is 36 months for both phases of the work effort.

4. Proposed subcontract award and period of performance

The Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC has entered into Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308 with the Department of Energy (DOE), an agency of the U.S. Government, for the management and operation of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (hereinafter called "NREL"). All references to "NREL" in this solicitation shall mean the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

It is the intent of NREL to award **2 - 4 Firm Fixed Price** subcontract(s) under this solicitation. The actual number of awards may vary based on the submissions received and the availability of funds. NREL reserves the right to make any number of awards or make no awards under this solicitation. The anticipated period of performance is **thirty-six (36)** months and the subcontract ceiling amount for each award will be \$500,000.00 for all Phases (**Phase 1 and 2**) of the Project Work Statement (not including technical assistance).

5. Competitive negotiated subcontract using Best Value, Tradeoff, Selection

This solicitation shall be conducted using Best Value, Tradeoff, Selection that results in an award that is most advantageous to NREL based on the best value combination of (a) evaluated qualitative merit and (b) evaluated price (cost) of the offers submitted.

Best Value, Tradeoff, Selection is based on the premise that, if all offers are of approximately equal qualitative merit, award will be made to the offeror with the lowest evaluated price (cost). However, NREL will consider awarding to an offeror with a higher evaluated price (cost) if the offer demonstrates the difference in price (cost) is commensurate with the higher qualitative merit. Conversely, NREL will consider awarding to an offeror with a lower evaluated qualitative merit if the price (cost) differential between it and other offers warrant doing so.

6. Qualitative merit criteria for Best Value, Tradeoff, Selection

The Project Description (item 3 above) serves as NREL's baseline requirements that must be met by each offer.

The qualitative merit criteria establish what NREL considers the technical factors valuable in an offer. These qualitative merit criteria are performance-based and permit selection of a higher priced offer that provides higher qualitative merit.

The following qualitative merit criteria will be used to determine the technical value of the offer in meeting the objectives of the solicitation. Sub-criterion, if listed, are not individually weighted, but are factors in the overall weighting.

Each qualitative merit criterion and its assigned weight are listed below:

Criterion #	Criterion	Assigned Weight (%)	Description
6.1	Project Background, Summary, and Impacts	20%	
6.1.1	Project Summary	N/A	1 page maximum Provide a succinct, clear description of the proposed project.
6.1.2	Defined issue and opportunity for impact	N/A	3 pages maximum Provide an overview of the clean energy challenges in your community and the opportunities for impact, addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Describe the core clean energy challenges in your community/communities. b) Indicate how your community is interested in addressing cross-sectoral clean energy issues (i.e., issues that involve the interaction of multiple topic areas, including electricity generation, c) Describe any upcoming or anticipated decision points (e.g., changes to policies, updates to clean energy goals) that could be informed by this work. d) If applicable, describe how this effort would support otherwise disadvantaged or underserved communities. e) If applicable, describe the regional or national impact of the technical assistance from the National Laboratories.
6.2	Technical scope	40%	5 pages maximum
6.2.1	Lab Role	25%	Understanding that the technical assistance scope is subject to adjustment during the engagement, please provide an overview of the technical assistance scope your community would like to pursue under C2C, addressing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Describe the types of support your team needs to de-risk and/or validate new cross-sector technology designs or programs, in order for your team to move forward with procurement of assets. For example, how combinations of buildings, transportation, and renewable power technologies

			<p>will operate within your current system, the performance of a particular technology in community-specific conditions, controls validation, etc.</p> <p>b) Provide a description of the ideal outcome of the National Laboratory technical assistance, being as specific as possible, as to how the assistance would enable the community team to address its clean energy challenges.</p>
6.2.2	Community Team Role	15%	<p>Describe the activities that will be undertaken by the community team, addressing the following:</p> <p>a) Proposed outreach and stakeholder engagement efforts, including an anticipated sequence of tasks.</p> <p>b) Data or tools the community team can provide to support the National Laboratory technical assistance.</p> <p>c) Project risks that exist with the community team's efforts and their associated risk mitigation strategies.</p>
6.3	Applying Community Team Background and Past Experience	40%	
6.3.1	Lead Organization Capacity	N/A	<p>1 page maximum.</p> <p>Please describe the lead organization's technical capacity and institutional authority to (1) coordinate with the applying community team and (2) receive project funding and manage it across the applying community team as the Subcontractor.</p>
6.3.2	Offeror organization roles, relevance, capacity, and previous experience	N/A	<p>4 page maximum.</p> <p>Demonstrate that the community team and additional stakeholders can successfully participate in this project. Please address:</p> <p>a) Ability to broadly represent community interests across clean energy topics.</p> <p>b) Ability to facilitate meetings between the applying community team organizations, national laboratories, and relevant community stakeholders.</p> <p>c) Authority of the representatives within their respective organizations to inform organizational actions and decisions based on results from the C2C engagement.</p>

			d) Previous experience of the applying community team members, individually or collectively, implementing clean energy projects.
6.3.3	Supporting disadvantaged and underserved communities	N/A	1 page maximum Discuss any past successes and/or failures (by one or more of the organizations comprising the community team) in supporting disadvantaged or underserved communities that are relevant to the proposed work. Describe any lessons learned from these past efforts.
6.3.4	Resumes and letters of support	N/A	1 page maximum per resume or letter of support Provide resumes (including recent experience and professional designations) for the individuals who would be representing the applying community team organizations (including the lead organization) in this engagement. Provide a one-page letter of support from each core team member and any additional stakeholders.
		100%	Total of Merit Criteria

7. Price (cost) evaluation for Best Value Selection

After evaluation of the qualitative merit criteria, the following price (cost) evaluation will be used to determine the best value of the offer in meeting the objectives of the solicitation.

The combined qualitative merit value will be considered substantially more important than the price (cost).

8. Additional Factors for Evaluation

In addition to the qualitative merit criteria and price (cost) evaluation above, each offer will be evaluated using the following evaluation factor(s) to determine the competitive range and final negotiation rank order. These factors are not weighted.

- 8.1 Location of Communities: C2C aims to support a diverse range of communities across the country in their clean energy transitions and will consider geographic diversity of Offerors in its final selection.
- 8.2 Diverse Range of Communities: C2C aims to support a diverse range of communities across the country in their clean energy transitions and will consider diversity in demographics such as population and representation of stakeholders in its final selection.

- 8.3 Technology Balance: C2C aims to support a balanced portfolio of projects addressing cross-sectoral technical questions and will consider the technology focus areas prioritized by each team to ensure a balanced portfolio.
- 8.4 Previous or Current Work with the Department of Energy: C2C aims to encourage communities that may not typically receive funding from the Department of Energy.
- 8.5 Programmatic Fit: For those Offerors who submit a proposal to both C2C in-depth technical partnerships, reviewers will consider which program the proposal is most appropriate for in its final selection.

9. Evaluation process

NREL will evaluate offers in two general steps:

Step One—Initial Evaluation

An initial evaluation will be performed to determine if all required information has been provided for an acceptable offer. Offerors may be contacted only for clarification purposes during the initial evaluation. Offerors shall be notified if their offer is determined unacceptable and the reasons for rejection will be provided. Unacceptable offers will be excluded from further consideration.

Step Two—Discussion, Selection, Negotiation, and Award

All acceptable offers will be evaluated against the Statement of Objectives and the qualitative merit criteria listed above. Based on this evaluation, and taking into consideration the proposed price (cost), NREL has the option, depending on the specific circumstances of the offers received, to use one of the following methods of selection:

- (a) make individual selection(s), conduct negotiations, and make an award(s);
- (b) conduct parallel negotiations with all offerors and make award(s);
- (c) conduct discussions with all offerors, select successful finalists, conduct parallel negotiations with successful finalists, and then make award(s);
- (d) conduct discussions with all offerors, conduct parallel negotiations with the finalists, select successful finalist(s), and then make award(s);
- (e) select successful finalists, conduct successive negotiations, and make successive selections and awards;
- (f) make no award(s).

10. Proposal preparation information

Proposals should be arranged in the following order. The total response is limited to the sections defined below and must adhere to the section page limits listed below (excluding the Representations and Certifications, Fully Burdened Labor Rate form, and Organizational Conflict of Interest form). In the event that the page limit is exceeded, NREL at its sole discretion, reserves the right to remove pages from the sections of any non-conforming submittals to bring each non-conforming submittal within the page count requirement.

a. Title Page: 1 page maximum

The proposal must include a title page that includes:

- RFP title and number,
- The project title,
- Name of your organization and principal investigator or project manager (with postal address, telephone number(s), and email address),
- List of other team members and a contact for each team member

The title should be succinct and capture the essence of your offer. Include the following notice on the title page:

“Notice for Handling Proposals:

This proposal shall be used and disclosed for Alliance/NREL and Government evaluation purposes only. Any authorized restrictive notices which the Offeror places on this proposal shall also be strictly complied with. Disclosure of this proposal outside the Government, Alliance/NREL, Alliance/NREL consultants, or other national laboratories personnel for evaluation purposes shall be made only to the extent authorized by, and in accordance with, the procedures in DEAR 915.207-70 and, as applicable stated in the procurement solicitation document for source evaluation and selection process.

Upon completion of the evaluation, the evaluator shall certify in writing to the Source Evaluation Team Chairperson that all copies of this proposal have been destroyed and/or deleted from any electronic device, medium or storage location with the exception of those retained in the procurement file or in the case of successful offeror(s) in the project management file.”

b. Project Work Statement: (15 pages total not including title page, letters of support, resumes, or table 10-1)

As part of their proposal, Offerors shall prepare and submit a Project Work Statement (PWS) based on your project idea and the background and objectives outlined in the SOO (section 3 above). The proposed PWS should form Phase 1 work objectives as the response to the RFP. Phase 2 of the work effort will be to further develop and refine work as the subcontract tasks and technical assistance unfold. It should also contain, as a minimum, the following sections:

Section 1. Proposal Background and Goals: (4 pages)

This section should be a summary of the proposed project and its potential to contribute to C2C goals. Offerors shall accomplish this by clearly defining the proposed technology/concept, how this work benefits clean energy transition, and how this work will benefit the team. Offerors shall include data or references to support cost and performance claims. The following subsections are required:

1.1 Community Challenges and Opportunity for Impact (1 page)

Define core clean energy challenges in your community, upcoming decision points that could be informed by the work, the opportunity for impact.

1.2 Technical Assistance Requested (3 pages)

Describe how the proposed project aligns with C2C objectives. In particular, note how the needs are cross-sectoral in nature and involve the interaction of multiple sectors, including electricity generation, transportation, and buildings.

Section 2. Scope of Work – Task Descriptions: (5 pages)

This task description section shall contain a task-by-task description of the work to be considered to be necessary to meet project objectives. Task descriptions shall also consist of:

- a distinctive title,
- a concise statement of the objectives,
- potential risks or barriers and approaches for overcoming them,
- quarterly milestones and/or deliverables that demonstrate progress towards meeting the project's technical objectives,
- as well as any subtask activities that make up that task effort. Subtask narratives contained within task description should similarly describe the focus, approach, and goals of each subtask as they relate to reaching the goals of their specific task.

Section 3. Team Composition, Coordination, and Capabilities: (6 pages not including resumes and letters of support)

Describe each organization that makes up the core team responding to the solicitation. Provide the capabilities of each organization comprising the team and list their key personnel for this project. Detail the role of each organization and how they will contribute to each task proposed. Identify key stakeholders for the project and how they will be engaged throughout the work effort.

Section 4. Deliverables

This project engages a Firm Fixed Price subcontracting mechanism and thus requires quantifiable deliverables for subcontracted projects. Please take care in considering the deliverables that are proposed. These deliverables are what the subcontract will be written around and what, if awarded, the Offeror will be reimbursed for when the deliverables are actually achieved/received. The deliverables should be quantifiable and achievable.

The milestones discussed in the task and subtask narrative form the foundation for defining and achieving the project deliverables. It is important that the task structure supports the proposed deliverables and that the proposed deliverables are of reasonable value.

Note: Tasks and deliverables should only be defined for Phase 1 of the work effort.

Table 10-1 must be included in your response but may be modified to fit the Offeror's proposed approach. The table must include deliverable name, description, due dates (in months relative to the start date), and the proposed price associated with each deliverable.

Note that at a minimum, the following deliverable requirements should be planned and budgeted:

- One annual presentation at the C2C Summit
- Stakeholder mapping exercise
- Community engagement plan
- Monthly meetings with the DOE National Lab project team

Table 10-1. Example Deliverable Table

Deliverable Title	Deliverable Description	Due Date (months after project start)	Proposed Price
D.1-Name		Example: 2 months	\$0.00
D.2-Name			\$0.00
D.3-Name			\$0.00
D.4-Name			\$0.00
D.5-Name			\$0.00

Additional Supporting Documentation

Resumes

Abbreviated (1-page maximum per person) resumes shall be supplied for all key personnel (submitted resumes shall not include social security numbers). Resumes are not included in the final page count.

Letters of Support

Provide a one-page letter of support from each core team member and any additional stakeholders. Letters of Support are not included in the page count.

Formatting instructions

A page is defined as one side of an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper.

Use a 12-point font.

Maintain at least 1-inch margins on all sides.

All pages must have the same page orientation (i.e., do not present pages that offset by 90 degrees).

All files are to be provided as separate PDF files.

Each proposal must be submitted to the NREL Subcontract Administrator via e-mail at Carol.Johnston@nrel.gov. The e-mailed submission must include the RFP number (RFX- 2024-10065) and the solicitation title ("*DOE Clean Energy to Communities – In-Depth Technical Partnerships*") in the subject line. The proposal must be directed toward meeting the requirements of the RFP.

c. **Price Proposal**

A completed “Fully Burdened Labor Rate and Expense Proposal Form” (Attachment 2) in an electronic copy (Microsoft Excel). An individual offeror’s price (cost) proposal standard format can be used if the data included is substantially the same as the NREL form. The offeror’s price (cost) and delivery terms must be valid for 180 days from the date of the offer. The price (cost) proposal should include support documentation for all categories of the proposed price (cost). The price (cost) proposal should separate price (cost) for lower-tier subcontract(s) and include support documentation for all categories of the proposed lower-tier subcontract(s) price (cost). See the “Fully Burdened Labor Rate and Expense Proposal Form” for specific instructions.

d. **Representations and Certifications**

A completed “**Representations & Certifications for Subcontracts**” form. Please download from the NREL general access website link below:

<http://www.nrel.gov/workingwithus/forms.html>

e. **Organizational Conflict of Interest Form**

EITHER the “**Organizational Conflicts of Interest Representation Statement**” e “**Organizational Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Statement**”, as applicable per the “**Instructions for Completion of Organizational Conflicts of Interest Statement – Disclosure or Representation Statement**” . The forms and instructions are located at the following link:

<http://www.nrel.gov/workingwithus/forms.html>

f. **Cover Letter**

A cover letter including either acceptance or change/exception with reason to the sample subcontract schedule (Attachment 1), anticipated period of performance, and the standard terms and conditions and/or the intellectual property terms and conditions in the appendices. The offeror shall explain any proposed change/exception with respect to the sample subcontract schedule and terms and conditions. Any proposed change/exception must contain sufficient amplification and justification to permit evaluation. Such proposed changes/exceptions will not, of themselves, automatically cause an offer to be termed unacceptable. However, a large number of proposed changes/exceptions or one or more significant exceptions not providing any obvious benefit to the NREL or the Department of Energy may result in rejection of such offer as unacceptable.

g. This solicitation requires the submittal of electronic proposals.

h. This solicitation **does not** commit NREL to pay costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal in response to this RFP.

11. Solicitation Provisions—full text provided

a. Late submissions, modifications, and withdrawals of offers

Offers, or modifications to them, received from qualified organizations after the latest date specified for receipt may be considered if received prior to award, and NREL determines that there is a potential price (cost), technical, or other advantage, as compared to the other offers received. However, depending on the circumstances surrounding the late submission or modification, NREL may consider a late offer to be an indication of the offeror's performance capabilities, resulting in downgrading of the offer in the technical evaluation process. Offers may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before award.

b. Restrictions on disclosure and use of proprietary data (Nov 2018)

Offerors who include in their proposals proprietary data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the government or NREL, except for evaluation purposes shall, in addition to including the *"Notice for Handling Proposals"* required in Paragraph #. b. above—

1. Mark the title page with the following legend:
"This offer includes proprietary data that shall not be disclosed outside the government or NREL and shall not be used or disclosed—in whole or in part—for any purpose other than to evaluate this offer. If, however, a subcontract is awarded to this offeror as a result of—or in connection with—the submission of proprietary data, the government or NREL shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the proprietary data to the extent required in the resulting subcontract. This restriction does not limit the government or NREL's right to use this proprietary data if obtained from another source without restriction. The proprietary data subject to this restriction are contained on pages [insert page and line numbers or other identification of pages] of this offer"; and
2. Highlight (in yellow) the proprietary data on each page it wishes to restrict and add the following footer:

"Use or disclosure of proprietary data contained on this page is subject to the restriction on the title page of this offer."

c. RESERVED

d. Disclaimer

NEITHER THE UNITED STATES; NOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY; NOR ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY, LLC; NOR ANY OF THEIR CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, OR THEIR EMPLOYEES MAKE ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OR ASSUME ANY LEGAL LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, OR USEFULNESS FOR ANY PURPOSE OF ANY OF THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION OR DATA ATTACHED OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED HEREIN AS REFERENCE MATERIAL.

e. Solicitation disputes

The General Accountability Office and the Department of Energy do not accept or rule on disputes for solicitations for Requests for Proposals issued by Management and Operating Contractors for the Department of Energy (operators of Department of Energy National Laboratories). Should an offeror have any concerns regarding the NREL solicitation process or selection determination, the offeror may contact Paul White, Advocate for Commercial Practices, at (303) 384-7575. NREL will address each concern received from an offeror on an individual basis.

f. Prohibition on use of certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment per the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act Section 889(a)(1)(B)

In accordance with the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act Section 889(a)(1)(B), NREL is prohibited from contracting with any offeror that uses, and/or whose lower-tier subcontractor(s) use, covered telecommunication equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as a critical technology of any system, on or after 08/13/2020, unless an exception applies or a waiver is granted. This includes such equipment or services from five Chinese companies: **Huawei, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications, Hangzhou Hikvision, and Dahua Technology.**

g. Compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (found at 29 U.S.C. 794d)

The requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act apply to NREL's procurement of all electronic and information technology (EIT) and any development, maintenance, or use of EIT.

12. Solicitation provisions

The following solicitation documents are attached:

- Attachment 1, Sample Subcontract Schedule - Firm Fixed Price
- Attachment 2, Fully Burdened Labor Rate Form

13. Solicitation provisions—incorporated by reference—general access

This solicitation incorporates one or more solicitation provisions by reference with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. The following documents can be downloaded from <http://www.nrel.gov/workingwithus/standard-terms.html> and <http://www.nrel.gov/workingwithus/forms.html> or the NREL RFP Contact (see item 2) will make available upon request.

The documents and forms that are listed below are applicable to this solicitation and resulting award:

Appendix/Form

- ✓ NREL Standard Terms and Conditions: Appendix B-7 (1/23/2023);
- ✓ NREL Intellectual Property Provisions: Appendix C-3 (8/1/2022);
- ✓ NREL Representations and Certifications (7/14/2022) For Subcontracts;
- ✓ NREL Conflicts of Interest Forms

14. NAICS Code and Small Business Size Standard

- a. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for this solicitation is 541690.
- b. The small business size standard for 541690 is \$19M in annual receipts. (Annual receipts of a concern means the annual average gross revenue for the last three fiscal years.)

15. Notice Regarding NREL Payments to Subcontractors

It is NREL's standard practice to make all payments to domestic subcontractors via electronic (ACH) payments or to international subcontractors via wire transfers. Any Offeror receiving notification of an award under this solicitation must complete and submit a "Request for ACH/Wire Banking Information" form to the applicable NREL Subcontract Administrator. Payments to subcontractors will be deposited directly into the subcontractor's designated bank account in accordance with the banking account/wire transfer information provided on the form by an authorized company representative. An electronic (PDF) copy of the form will be provided by the NREL Subcontract Administrator upon notification of award. ***Please do not include an ACH form with your response to this RFP.***

NREL has offered qualified community teams - comprised of a municipal government, an NGO, and a utility - the opportunity for an in-depth partnership toward achieving community clean energy transition goals. This offering includes \$500k in funding for the local effort (over 3 years) and up to \$3.5 million in technical assistance from NREL during that period. The BHPCC believes that a partnership with NREL will provide new resources and insights to dramatically accelerate our progress toward our community goals of 100% clean energy, particularly in the commercial and industrial sectors. We have initiated a working draft [available here](#).

Our Goals for the 3.5 million research funding:

- Increase our understanding of baseline building stock by referencing data available from permits and public records to see what current heating, cooling, and water heating technologies are being used and are likely ready for upgrades.
- Work with utilities Duke and Dominion Energy to gather data about energy use in our private buildings to the extent that data can be shared in aggregate or provided to NREL for modeling.
- Identify large users and low-hanging fruit and ask for voluntary participation in an energy audit with Waste Reduction Partners or NREL if they are able to provide this technical assistance.
- Model the economic investment required to meet the 100% renewable energy goal including the opportunities created by the Inflation Reduction Act, and other incentives that may be available. Provide the ROI for investments made by the private sector.
- Model energy production capacity within County limits and on county-held lands including wind, solar, geothermal, and hydroelectric. Also, model load balancing through a "Virtual Power Plant" after the adoption of electrified technologies.
- Design policy improvements to our "community benefits round table" and incentives to make developers and industrial facilities voluntarily implement "green measures". Identify opportunities to re-zone or utilize lands for renewable energy production.

Opportunity for Community Engagement \$500K

This funding would allow us to support the grant's research work through targeted engagement in the business community and develop relationships to recruit commercial and industrial participants. The funding would be used for additional staff support and provide the budget for marketing materials, outreach events, and data management tools needed for the strategic deployment of programs. Potential strategic partnerships include:

- Surveying the Manufacturers Alliance, Brewers Alliance, and Asheville Buncombe Hotel Association
- Coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and Development Authority
- Increased capacity for Waste Reduction Partners
- Shared programming with Land of Sky Regional Council
- Network of regional renewable energy developers

