

Seeking Availability of Environmental Consultants with Expertise in analysis of Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from Energy Use for The State of Vermont

Release Date: [REDACTED], 2022

Responses Due: [REDACTED], 2022

Contact for Proposals: Jane Lazorchak, ANR, (802) xxx-xxxx
jane.lazorchak@vermont.gov

THE STATE WILL MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT VENDORS WITH UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH VENDOR TO PERIODICALLY CHECK <http://www.vermontbidsystem.com> FOR ANY AND ALL NOTIFICATIONS, RELEASES AND AMENDMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RFI.

Introduction and Purpose

The [Vermont Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#), conducted by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) within the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), is published annually as required by Vermont statute 10 V.S.A. § 582. This is an in-boundary sector-based inventory that establishes historic 1990 and 2005 baseline greenhouse gas (GHG) levels and tracks changes in emissions through time, and is generally informed by the Final Vermont Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Reference Case Projections, 1990-2030 Report and is consistent with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines.

The Inventory is the primary means of determining progress toward Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) emissions reduction requirements.

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to gather information that facilitates a better understanding of the role that a supplemental analysis of lifecycle emissions related to energy usage may play in future updates to the state's Climate Action Plan (CAP). This new and supplemental analysis is intended to function as a decision aid, helping to ensure that Vermont achieves a fuller understanding of the emissions

that Vermont can fairly be understood to be responsible for and options for reducing such emissions (even if they occur out of state).

Disclaimer

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes – it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. This request for information does not commit the State to contract for any materials or service whatsoever. Further, the State is not at this time seeking proposals and will not accept unsolicited proposals. Responders are advised that the State will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense. Note that responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP, if any is issued.

Statement of Need

The goal of this project is to determine the availability of qualified environmental consultants to advise and assist the ANR with identifying the appropriate software tools, datasets, methodologies / protocols, decision aids and expertise that would be required to conduct an analysis of lifecycle GHG emissions related to Vermont's multi-sector statewide energy usage. Among the informational needs and objectives of this request:

1. Please detail your qualifications and experience with conducting lifecycle GHG emissions analyses for national or sub-national jurisdictions.
2. Please define and explain the term "lifecycle" and "upstream" for purposes of a GHG emissions analysis.
3. Do you foresee any issues in focusing on lifecycle emissions solely related to Vermont's energy supply (i.e. including but not limited to electricity including renewable and nuclear generation, liquid fuels including biofuels, gaseous fuels including renewable fuels, solid fuels including wood) versus a more comprehensive consumption based or lifecycle analysis?
4. Please identify any other states, provinces, or nations that have undertaken a similar jurisdiction-wide energy-related lifecycle GHG emissions analysis that might serve as a useful guide to Vermont's efforts.
5. Please provide a list of recommended software, datasets, methodologies, protocols, etc. that would be required to perform a lifecycle GHG emissions analysis for Vermont.
6. Are there other software, datasets, methodologies, protocols available? If so, please describe the rationale for your recommended selections.

7. Would any of the components you recommend require specialized training of staff, purchase of software licensing or subscriptions, purchase of specialized hardware, an ongoing need for consultant services, etc.? If so, please elaborate.
8. Please describe the tasks and estimate the anticipated number of person hours required to produce a lifecycle analysis for a single calendar year, and whether a similar level of effort would be required annually in future years to compile a comparable analysis.
9. Do data of sufficient detail exist to describe the diverse and variable nature of Vermont's energy imports with reasonable accuracy for a given year?
10. Please identify the time lags in the availability of the underlying data for a lifecycle GHG emissions analysis (e.g., when would sufficient data to conduct a lifecycle analysis for calendar year 2021 become available and is this later than data availability for the current inventory approach?).
11. Please describe any methodological challenges, limitations, data gaps, etc. that are likely to be encountered during the preparation of a statewide lifecycle GHG analysis related to energy use.
12. Please describe if / how this lifecycle analysis might inform or interact with Vermont's existing annual statewide GHG emissions inventory.
13. Do you have recommendations that would maximize the usefulness of this lifecycle GHG analysis to policymakers? Specifically, what aspects or components should be included or excluded in the analysis to facilitate effective prioritization and development of GHG emissions reduction actions.
14. Please provide any additional relevant information you believe is key to conducting this lifecycle GHG emissions analysis.
15. Please indicate your availability and capacity to provide assistance to the ANR over the time period of XXXX to YYYY.

ANR will consider any information, including partial responses, received in response to this RFI. It is ANR's intent to follow this RFI at some later time with a request for proposal (RFP). If ANR chooses to move forward with an RFP, the RFP process will be open to all parties regardless of their participation in this RFI.

Deadlines and Content of Responses

Questions: All questions are required to be submitted electronically via email to Jane Lazorchak at Jane.Lazorchak@vermont.gov by **[date], 12:00 pm (noon) EST** using the subject line *"Statewide GHG Lifecycle Emissions RFI Questions."*

Submittal: All responses must be submitted electronically via email to Jane Lazorchak by **[date], 4:00 pm EDST** using the subject line *"Statewide GHG Lifecycle Emissions RFI Response."*

To simplify the evaluation process and obtain the maximum degree of comparison under this RFI, ANR is requiring firms to submit information in the format and manner described in this section.

1. Title Page

- Request for Information – Project Title
- Name of Firm
- Address and Telephone number of Firm
- Single Point of Contact and Email Address
- Date of Submission

2. Contents of the Response

- Detailed, item-by-item response to the Statement of Need described above.
- Provide a brief description of your expertise with similar projects and clients
- Provide a list of your qualifications as it pertains to this project or similar projects.

Confidentiality

After conclusion of the contracting process, Proposals are a matter of public record. If an application includes material considered by the applicant to be proprietary and confidential under 1 V.S.A., Chapter 5, the application shall clearly designate the material as such and explain why such material should be considered confidential. The Vendor must identify each page or section of the Proposal that it believes is proprietary and confidential with sufficient grounds to justify each exemption from release, including the prospective harm to the competitive position of the applicant if the identified material were to be released.

Under no circumstances shall the entire Proposal be designated as proprietary or confidential. If the Vendor marks portions of the Proposal confidential, the Vendor shall provide a redacted version of the Proposal for release to the public. Notwithstanding the above, the Secretary has an independent obligation under Vermont law to determine whether any proposal material is subject to public inspection and copying upon request, which may include material that has otherwise been designated as proprietary and confidential by the Vendor. The Vendor's designation of material as proprietary and confidential, and submission of a redacted Proposal, are provided to the Secretary for informational purposes in the event the Agency receives a public records request and will not result in withholding of materials by the Secretary unless expressly supported by Vermont law.