

Addendum #1 – RFP 16-75 Solarize Mass Somerville Photovoltaic Installer



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Purchasing
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

To: All Parties on Record with the City of Somerville as Holding RFP 16-75 Solarize Mass Somerville Photovoltaic Installer

From: Michael Richards, Procurement Analyst

Date: 4/20/2016

Re: Amend answers to questions

Addendum No. 1 – RFP 16-75 Solarize Mass Somerville Photovoltaic Installer

Please acknowledge receipt of this Addendum by signing below and including this form in your proposal package. Failure to do so may subject the proposer to disqualification.

NAME OF COMPANY / INDIVIDUAL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE/FAX/EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDENDA:

Addendum #1 _____ **#2** _____ **#3** _____ **#4** _____

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Questions and Answers

Q. In section 1.1, the language seeks proposals from installers that “can provide residential and small-scale commercial solar PV installations under both direct purchase and third party ownership models.” Elsewhere in the RFP, the language suggests offering a third party ownership model such as a lease or PPA is optional (Page 11 Comparative Evaluation Criteria, Price Structure; Page 28, Section 4 Pricing, Installer pricing proposal) with language such as “Outline the discounted Purchase Price, the Lease/PPA Price (if offered), and the Lease/PPA financial incentive (if third-party ownership is offered).” The Mass CEC’s Solarize program does not require community and installer teams to offer 3rd party ownership, allowing for alternative “no money down” financing options such as the CEC administered Mass Solar Loan.

Is it required to provide a Solar Lease or PPA, or does offering a low or no money down solar loan option meet the proposal requirement threshold?

A. Providing Solar Leasing options or PPA’s is not required but offering such options may make for a stronger proposal. The City of Somerville wants to engage as many homeowners as possible through our Solarize Somerville campaign and offering an array of funding options to homeowners may increase resident participation in the program.

Q. A number of areas within the RFP describe a tiered pricing structure, including Exhibit 1, Installer Required Terms and Conditions, section d: “Provide customers within the Community with pricing available at the appropriate tiered level, and provide tiered pricing reductions, as outlined in the Installer’s competitive bid, to all customers under the Program.” Additionally, section e of Exhibit 1 references an attached Pricing Proposal: “Utilize equipment listed in the Pricing Proposal (Attachments B.1 and B.2)”

We cannot find attachments B.1 and B.2 within the RFP PDF. We assume that B.2 is a reference to page 31, Attachment A, Cost Adders. However we cannot find B1, which in past Mass CEC Solarize proposals would outline the expected tier breakdown by kW amount.

Is it a requirement to offer tiered pricing, or is a flat price for the duration of program expected (or preferred)? If the former, what is the specific breakdown of kW thresholds in the program?

A. The city of Somerville is interested in flat pricing for the duration of the program. The Exhibit 1 Installer Required Terms and Conditions contains template Pricing Proposal information that is not reflected in the City’s RFP. As a result, there is no Attachment B.1 containing tiered pricing. Please disregard any reference that there may be regarding tiered pricing options.

Q. Does the Evaluation Committee include members of the Inspectional Services Division’s Building or Electrical inspection departments?

A. Yes.

Q. For residential-scale photovoltaic installations, Somerville currently requires a rough electrical inspection in addition to and on top of a conventional electrical inspection. Should bidders include the additional costs of that inspection in pricing for this program? Or is it

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anticipated that the electrical inspection department would develop a cost-saving, streamlined process working closely with the selected installer over this defined program?

A. As part of the Solarize program, the City of Somerville is working with technical experts to identify possible modifications to streamline the permitting process. While no specific changes have yet been made, the permits and fees identified in the questions are being reviewed. Feedback from the selected installer will be considered in evaluating the permitting process. However, for the purposes of this proposal, respondents should submit costs based on the current permitting structure as it exists today.