

# Schuylkill County Municipal Authority

Request for Qualifications-Based Proposal For a

**GUARANTEED ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACT**

## I. PURPOSE OF SOLICITATION

This Request for Qualifications Based Proposal (RFQ) is issued by **Schuylkill County Municipal Authority** (“the Authority”) as follows:

### **Schuylkill County Municipal Authority Request for Qualifications Based Proposal (RFQ)**

**Schuylkill County Municipal Authority**  
**Attn: Patrick M. Caulfield, P.E., Executive Director**  
**221 S. Centre Street**  
**Pottsville, PA 17901**  
**570.622.8240 - [info@scmawater.com](mailto:info@scmawater.com)**

At time of opening at its public meeting on December 18, 2024, the proposals will be acknowledged, but will not be read aloud nor any information disclosed. Submissions received after the receipt deadline will not be accepted. Proposals will be held in strict confidence until reviewed and a contractor is selected. Upon review of qualifications and award of contract, qualifications will become public knowledge to anyone who submits a request.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope and clearly marked: Qualification Proposal for Guaranteed Energy Savings Act. Proposals must be submitted in the format required by the RFQ and must comply with all applicable minimum qualifications, laws, and regulations. All Proposals submitted are valid for acceptance by the Authority and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the actual date of opening thereof.

Following receipt and review of the proposals, interviews may be conducted with the responsible offerors who submitted proposals. The Authority reserves the right to select for contract negotiations from the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the Authority. RFQ may be canceled or any or all proposals may be rejected, in whole or in part, if the Authority determines that it is in its best interest to do so.

For all firms interested in submitting proposals, attention is directed to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Procurement Code (Title 62 Pa. CSA §§3751 et seq.) regarding Guaranteed Energy Savings Contracts. All considered energy performance contracts and financing arrangements proposed must be capable of being implemented under the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

This project is subject to the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Law, approved August 15, 1961 (Act No. 442), as amended, and reference is made to the prevailing minimum wage rates applicable to this project which has been promulgated by the Secretary of Labor and Industry.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all responses resulting from this RFQ. Late responses will not be accepted and will be returned to the submitting company unopened. The Authority is not liable for any cost incurred by any person or firm responding to this RFQ. The Authority reserves the right to reject as non-responsive any submissions that do not contain the information requested in this RFQ. Additionally, the Authority reserves the right to reject as non-responsive any submissions that are not organized and formatted as described in this RFQ.

Questions regarding this RFQ and the program it represents must be submitted in writing to:

**Schuylkill County Municipal Authority**  
**Attn: Patrick M. Caulfield, P.E., Executive Director**  
**221 S. Centre Street**  
**Pottsville, PA 17901**  
**570.622.8240 - [info@scmawater.com](mailto:info@scmawater.com)**

All questions will be answered by email to all parties that have contacted the Authority with interest in responding. There will be no onsite meetings granted during the RFQ process. Respondents and their agents are not to contact any employee of the Authority or the members of the Authority's Board. Non-compliance will result in the proposal of the offending firm being rejected as non-responsive.

## **II. REQUESTED SERVICES**

The purpose of this RFQ is to identify and implement measures approved by the Authority that meet the guidelines for a guaranteed energy savings performance contract. All energy savings and sustainability measures will be considered for inclusion in a project such as, but not limited to mechanical, electrical, plumbing, solar, geothermal, and building envelope upgrades as well as sustainability measures as directed by the Authority. The Authority does have a specific interest in developing a solar array on property owned by the Authority located south of the Airport. Those responding to this RFQ should include in their submission a statement of experience related to solar projects.

The focus of this RFQ is at the discretion of the Authority, including all buildings and assets owned by the Authority. This project may be combined with other non-energy-related projects to be delivered by other project delivery methods, including hybrid project delivery methods. Responders will need to show that they can coordinate between projects and provide value to the Authority with this project delivery method. The Energy Services Contractor (ESCO) may be limited to as few as one facility and narrowed project scopes, as directed by the Authority.

Upon award of an Energy Audit Agreement, the ESCo will complete work on the facilities as directed by the Authority. The ESCo will provide a building energy audit with a focus on IAQ measures and energy savings opportunities, including savings and cost estimates, and recommended measurement and verification (M&V) methods. The audit may include benchmarking of facilities, analysis of utility rates, on-site observations, data logging, energy modeling, energy efficiency measure development and analysis, energy savings calculations, recommendations, and M&V methods. The Authority may anticipate a reduction in annual utility and/or allowable operational costs through the implementation of the energy efficiency measures identified in the audit.

The ESCo is responsible for all certification and documentation of personnel necessary to comply with the laws to perform work for the Authority and in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### III. SELECTION PROCESS

#### 1) Qualification Evaluation

Interested ESCOs must provide the information required to complete the RFQ response. The Authority will evaluate responses and choose the most highly qualified ESCo. Interviews of one or more respondents may be held at the sole discretion of the Authority. The determination and selection of the most qualified ESCo will be at the sole discretion of the Authority.

#### 2) Final Contract

Upon selection, the ESCo will negotiate specific scope and competitive industry rates for execution of an Investment Grade Audit (IGA) and potentially a Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract on the facilities as directed by the Authority.

### IV. SCHEDULE

The schedule below is expected to be followed during the procurement period of this RFQ:

Release of FRQ:	November 22, 2024
Receive Proposals:	December 16, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.
Opening at Public Meeting:	December 18, 2024
Anticipated Approval of Selected Vendor:	January 15, 2025

This is a tentative schedule, and dates are subject to change. Time is of the essence. Late responses will not be accepted and will be returned to the submitting company unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject, as non-responsive, any qualifications that do not contain the information requested.

The Authority is not liable for any cost or expenses incurred by proposing firms in the preparation of their written responses or for attendance at any conferences and meetings related to this RFQ. If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFQ, an amendment will be issued to all proposers who notify the Authority that they have received the RFQ and are interested in submitting qualifications. To the extent allowed by law, qualifications will be held in confidence by the Authority.

### V. PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Qualification of all business entities that respond to this solicitation, including any subcontractors to be used, will be evaluated using the following selection criteria.

#### **1) Experience and Qualifications – 20 points**

- a) Preference will be given to respondents demonstrating strong capabilities, experience, and reputation in undertakings similar to those described in this RFQ and providing authoritative documentation of the respondent's financial condition and stability.
- b) Experience taking responsibility for the range of roles contemplated for this project. Similar experience will be understood to include development of performance contracts in government

institutional facilities or public schools of similar size and use, and overall experience with government institutional facilities and public-school construction and construction methods.

c) Quality of personnel assigned to this project and degree of pertinent experience.

**2) Technical Approach – 35 points**

a) Preference will be given to respondents demonstrating practicality, soundness and cost-effectiveness in their approach to energy conservation projects.

b) The range of services offered will also be an important consideration, including alternative project delivery methods and the ability to coordinate projects using different project delivery methods.

c) Methodologies and technical approach to developing energy efficiency measures and demonstrating the tangible and intangible benefits to those measures.

**3) Financial Terms/Pricing Structure – 35 points**

d) Fee structures and pricing methods that demonstrate the ability to deliver the best project at a fair and reasonable price that also minimize the financial risk to the Authority.

e) Methods for determining realistic and achievable energy savings, including measurement and verification of savings

**4) Other Considerations – 10 points**

f) Breadth of independent services provided to Pennsylvania Municipal Government, State Government, and Public-School facilities.

g) Demonstrated ability to develop and manage a construction schedule, implement projects promptly, and minimize impact to operations.

h) Local experience, with references.

i) Legal action information.

j) Other unique qualifications.

**VI. FORMAT OF RESPONSE**

The responses to this RFQ must be completed and returned in the order indicated below with each section divided and tabbed with the appropriate section title. The Authority may, during the evaluation process, request additional information to supplement and/or clarify the information provided by any respondent.

Any additional information not specifically requested in this RFQ must be put in a separate Appendix at the end of the response. Additionally, all supplemental materials (brochures, product information sheets, etc.) not specifically tailored to this response must be placed in the Appendix.

The response is limited to forty (40) total single-sided pages or twenty (20) double-sided pages. The financial information is not included in this limit.

Provide one (1) original and one (1) copy of the response. Digital/PDF submissions will be accepted.

### **Section 1: Cover Letter**

Include a cover letter at the beginning of the submission summarizing the information presented in the qualifications; names, telephone and email addresses of persons authorized to provide any clarification required; and a statement accepting the terms of this solicitation or noting specific exceptions taken to any of the terms and conditions specified in this document. Include the name and title of the person(s) authorized to conduct final contract negotiations on behalf of the ESCo.

### **Section 2: Introduction**

- Table of Contents: Include a table of contents referencing each section of this RFQ, along with the contents further subdivided to describe information included within each section of the submission.
- Executive Summary: Provide an executive summary highlighting the ESCo's unique qualifications and capabilities for this project.

### **Section 3: Personnel**

- Attach a project staffing plan and include a description of proposed staffing showing the project organization, supervisory responsibilities, and lines of authority. Identify the corporate affiliation for each staff member listed in the project staffing plan. Attach resumes of all individuals who will have a role in the project.
- Provide an organizational chart of the participants listed in the ESCo's qualifications and their responsibilities in the program. Highlight the company and personnel responsible for each phase of the project, lines of authority and relationships between prime contractor and subcontractors.

### **Section 4: Services and Approach**

Provide an overview of the ESCo's approach to energy conservation projects and range of services provided directly by the ESCo. Specifically address the following areas:

- Services, Approach and Measure Experience - Describe energy efficiency improvements and identify specific measures the ESCo has implemented, including design and M&V. List all types of services provided.
- Benchmarking and Energy Savings Verification - Describe the normal method used to establish benchmarks, baseline energy use and verification methods. Describe the method used to justify variances between the baseline and actual energy consumption. Describe and justify the methods used in M&V of project savings.
- Cost and Savings Estimating and Bid Procurement Experience - Describe experience and accuracy of cost and savings estimating, and provide examples of cost estimates, bid procurement experience and accuracy.
- Building Commissioning Experience - Describe approach to building commissioning and/or existing building commissioning, including in-house expertise and/or use of consultants.
- Training Information - Outline any training proposed as part of the project, including the subject, duration and location of training. Also describe the relationship with the organization providing training, if not provided by the ESCo.
- Project/Construction Management - Describe experience and approach to project management, including coordination with subcontractors, division of responsibility among project staff and interaction with Authority representatives.

### **Section 5: Project References**

Provide references on at least three (3) energy-related projects (specifically public projects) that the respondent has successfully implemented within the last five (5) years.

References should include the following:

- Customer name including name and telephone number of contact
- Brief description of the project
- Project beginning and ending dates
- Project cost and savings estimates

### **Section 6: Pricing / Fee Structure**

- Provide a fee for completion of the Investment Grade Audit phase of the project. (Submission of a fee of \$0 will be viewed as non-responsive.)
- Describe and demonstrate how the respondent will assure that the Authority will receive fair and reasonable pricing for the resultant scope of work through description of the respondent's fee structure as well as equipment and subcontractor procurement methods.

### **Section 7: Financial Information (Excluded from Page Limit of 40 Pages/20 Double Sides)**

Include the ESCo's annual report, audited financial statements or equivalent showing information for the past three (3) complete financial year periods. If a bound document (such as an annual report) is included, it must be placed in the response's appendix section. Only one original requested financial statement is required, and it may be placed in a separate sealed envelope. Electronic PDFs will be accepted.

### **Section 8: Additional Information**

- Confirm that the proposing firm has not been involved with any projects where legal action or injunctions have been sought as a result of the work provided by the proposing firm. If legal **action or injunctions have been sought provide an explanation and attach resulting opinions.**
- Attach any supplemental information that is not requested by the RFQ and not subject to the 40 total page limit (20 double-sided).