



Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Funding "Request for Information" (RFI) Overview

What are we looking for?

The Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCAA) estimates \$3.5 million will be available around the middle of 2012 to fund a project(s) that will significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We are soliciting potential project ideas through a ["Request for Information" \(RFI\)](#).

NWCAA is interested in understanding the current availability of entities, technologies, and projects that could come together to comprise a defensible GHG reduction program that is proven to reduce emissions. Essentially, NWCAA is interested in funding a project that is a possible "game changer".

Why do we want this information?

The purpose of this RFI is to acquire written information about the capabilities of respondents to influence the reduction of GHG. NWCAA intends to use information gained in this process to inform and improve a future draft Request for Proposal (RFP).

PitchFest – May 5th – *RSVP Now!*

The agency is hosting a pre-bidders conference or PitchFest on **May 5th** at the McIntyre Hall at Skagit Valley College from 9:00am – 3: 00pm. This is an opportunity for you to pitch your idea, hear other ideas and build partnerships!

RSVP now if you want to present your idea at the PitchFest!

The intention of the PitchFest is to stimulate ideas and build partnerships. Interested bidders will have the opportunity to give a fifteen (15) minute presentation about their project or idea. Information gained through the PitchFest and the RFI process will help NWCAA move forward in developing a Request for Proposal.

If you are interested in attending the PitchFest and giving a fifteen minute presentation, send an email to GHGrant@nwcleanair.org and put "PitchFest" in the subject area.

RFI application submission date May 27th:

- The RFI solicitation is available at www.nwcleanair.org/pdf/ClimateChange/RFI_4-11-11.pdf
- Deadline is EOB Pacific Standard Time **May 27, 2011**
- Type "**GHG MITIGATION PROGRAM: Organizational Name**" in the subject line
- Email **Request for Information** applications to GHGrant@nwcleanair.org

For questions regarding this announcement, e-mail Laura Curley at GHGrant@nwcleanair.org.

Please pass this information on to others who may be interested.



Solicitation Number: NWCAA RFI 1.0

Notice Type: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) for 2012 Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCAA) Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program (MP)

Pre-Bidder's Presentation Conference/PitchFest: May 5, 2011, 9am – 2pm at Skagit Valley College McIntyre Hall.

RFI submittal Closing Date: May 27, 2011, 4:30 PST

Estimated Funding and Estimated Number of Assistance Awards: NWCAA estimates the award of total funding under this announcement to be approximately \$3.5 million for one or several large projects.

Who is Eligible? Eligibility for the program includes local governments (a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, council of governments, any other regional or interstate government entity, or any agency or instrumentality of a local government), individuals, not-for-profit organizations, corporations, partnerships, universities, colleges and unincorporated associations.

I. INTRODUCTION:

This announcement constitutes an RFI notice for planning purposes. This is NOT a Request for Proposal (RFP). NO SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS EXIST AT THIS TIME. This RFI does not constitute a commitment, implied or otherwise, that the Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCAA) will take procurement action in this matter. Neither will NWCAA be responsible for any cost incurred in furnishing this information. Respondents should also note that materials provided to NWCAA in response to this RFI will be shared within the agency in the process of preparing a draft Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Mitigation Program RFP. Materials contained in RFI responses should be marked as confidential or proprietary, as needed, by the responding entity. Respondents to this RFI are solely responsible for 'appropriate usage marking' of all intellectual property.

This Request for Information (RFI) is part of NWCAA's acquisition process whose purpose is to acquire written information about the capabilities of respondents to influence the reduction of GHG's. NWCAA intends to use information gained in this process to inform and improve a future draft Request for Proposal (RFP). Specifically, NWCAA seeks, via this RFI, to solicit communication from a broad base of entities with diverse expertise for the purposes of: assisting and informing potential RFP responder organizations; preparation for a draft RFP to be presented to the NWCAA Board of Directors for approval; issuance of an

RFP later in 2011; establishment of a related database; and further development of the agency's GHG mitigation program strategy. Additionally, information received in response to this RFI is intended to inform the Agency of the capacity of entities to undertake GHG mitigation activities.

II. PROGRAM BACKGROUND:

In 2007, the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) and the [National Academy of Science](#) recommended that the increase in average global surface temperature be limited to 2° C, or less, as compared to pre-industrial levels in order to avoid catastrophic warming of the planet. To avoid a greater temperature increase by 2050, GHG emissions will need to be reduced to 20% of 1990 emission levels.

The [Washington State Legislature passed a law](#) in 2008 that provides a framework for reducing GHG emissions and established reporting requirements.

A 2009 analysis of climate change science by the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) indicates that the pace and scale of climate change may now be outstripping even the most sobering predictions of the 2007 IPCC report.

The funds available for award by NWCAA result from a voluntary mitigation payment to NWCAA by a registered air pollution source. This payment was made to offset, in part, increased GHG emissions caused by a facility expansion. That project will result in an increase of approximately one-half million tons of GHG emissions per year. The agency intends to use these funds to assist one, or a few, large project(s) that will provide significant progress consistent with the above referenced objectives.

III. PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSALS SOUGHT

NWCAA estimates that approximately \$3.5 million will be available to fund a project(s) that helps mitigate the increase of GHG emissions from a permitted project. Specifically, NWCAA is interested in projects that contain the following elements:

- Compelling GHG solution; generate cost-effective and persistent GHG reductions
- Proven levels of GHG reduction during and after the funded program period
- Proposals that include structural and programmatic components to sustain long-term efforts
- Consistency of proposed project or activity with existing Federal Dept. of Energy or other agency programs and strategic objectives related to GHG reduction
- Extent of the proposers' current GHG reduction activities
- Form and extent of leveraging of non-NWCAA resources
- Ability to adequately develop and implement an appropriate GHG concept of operation during the funded agreement period
- Such other functions as NWCAA may identify as being necessary or useful to the operation of the Mitigation Funding Program

Awards made by the agency will include:

- a. Compelling GHG solution

- b. Detailed budget & project period
- c. Strategic partnerships
- d. Leverage of funds
- e. Dissemination plan
- f. Clear, measured outcomes
- g. Evaluation plan
- h. Linkage to Federal grants or programs

V. PROGRAM PRINCIPLES AND NEEDS:

NWCAA will base the RFP and acquisition decisions based on the following current program principles:

- Up to \$3.5M in funding may be available based on the soundness of the proposal(s)
- No geographic imperative
- Must be consistent with NWCAA goal of dramatic long-term GHG reduction
- Funds must be awarded and managed transparently and competitively
- Required outcomes must be proposed and objective metrics proven
- An applicant who proposes a project which includes other non-NWCAA funds (matching, cost sharing, loan-loss component) will have a competitive advantage
- Value will be assigned to use of evaluation and dissemination plans
- Value will be assigned for recipient use of partnerships
- Proven alignment with Dept of Energy or other Federal goals and programs will receive extra credit

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- NWCAA will hold a pre-submitters conference/PitchFest on May 5, 2011.
 - The goal of the PitchFest is to help focus NWCAA’s funding priorities; bring new ideas to the table and to encourage partnerships.
 - Potential bidders are invited to request the opportunity to give a 10-15 minute presentation about their project ideas at the PitchFest by **sending an email with “PitchFest” in subject line to Laura Curley at laura@nwcleanair.org.**
- NWCAA expects to send out a grant solicitation in September 2011 after evaluating the RFI proposals, developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) and obtaining Board approval.
- The agency anticipates that grant selections will be made during the winter 2011-2012.
- The funds will be available NO SOONER than July 2012.

VII. CONTENT AND FORMAT OF TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTIONS:

The electronic copy of responses is to be in Adobe Acrobat 9, Microsoft Word 2003, or Microsoft Word 2007 compatible format using a size 12 font with one inch margins. Adobe PDF format is preferred. Following a review of the responses received, NWCAA may elect to request additional information, or schedule one-on-one meetings with some respondents to gain additional information about their proposed solution(s).

Submission should include:

1. A cover letter (optional)
2. A cover page labeled with the heading NWCAA GHG MITIGATION PROGRAM, including name, address, technical point of contact, telephone number and e-mail address
3. No more than ten (10) pages including:
 - a. Product or service technical description
 - b. Narrative describing how the organization could fulfill this RFI
 - c. Relevant history showing ability to perform similar work in the recent past
 - d. Rough estimate of costs
4. If applicable, indication whether required technology is sufficiently mature to demonstrate, or whether additional development would be required prior to a subsequent demonstration.

NOTE: Please submit all pages as a single PDF file.

SUBMISSION DATE AND ADDRESS:

Electronic responses to this notice are requested to be emailed to GHGrant@nwcleanair.org no later than Friday, May 27, 2011. **The subject line of the e-mail should follow the form: 'GHG MITIGATION PROGRAM: Organizational Name.'**

QUESTIONS AND POINTS OF CONTACT:

Questions regarding this announcement shall be submitted in writing by e-mail to the following personnel:

Laura Curley
Public Information Officer
GHGrant@nwcleanair.org