

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**OPC-RFP-T-2025-5**

**For**

**Energy Consultant: To assess the benefits and costs of the solar requirements of the D.C. Law 24-314 ( Local Solar Expansion Amendment Act of 2022) as well as the technical and economic potential of solar energy generation in the District of Columbia**

**Sponsored by the**

**Office of the People’s Counsel for the District of Columbia**

RFP Re-Issue Date:

December 6, 2024

Proposal Due Date:

January 13, 2025

## **SECTION 1- SCOPE OF WORK**

### **I. Introduction**

The Office of the People's Counsel ("OPC" or the "Office") is an independent agency of the District of Columbia government. OPC's mission is to advocate for the provision of safe and reliable quality utility service and equitable treatment at rates that are just, reasonable, and non-discriminatory; assist individual consumers in disputes with utility providers; provide technical assistance, education, and outreach to consumers and ratepayers, community groups, associations, and the Consumer Utility Board; and provide legislative analysis and information to the Council of the District of Columbia on matters relating to utilities. DC law designates OPC as a party to all utility-related proceedings before the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. The Office is authorized to investigate the operation and valuation of utility companies independently of any pending proceedings.

### **II. Project Overview**

OPC is seeking an energy consultant to assess the benefits and costs of the solar requirements of the D.C. Law 24-314 (Local Solar Expansion Amendment Act of 2022) and the technical and economic potential of solar energy generation in the District of Columbia. The study will use information and data contained in the OPC-sponsored solar studies completed in 2017 and 2020, comprehensively analyze current solar potential (energy and capacity), and solar value, and produce projections for solar deployment in the future. The study will also address emerging complementary technologies and their integration into Pepco's distribution system.

### **III. Scope of Work**

The services that the selected Offeror shall produce a study that includes:

- Projections of technically and economically viable solar potential by ward with sensitivity estimates around the projections (e.g., low, medium, and high), and with and without federal tax credits;
- Estimate the share of solar potentials and costs by type of installation such as residential rooftop, privately-owned commercial buildings rooftop, local government-owned building rooftop, federally-owned buildings rooftop, privately-owned parking lot, and government-owned parking lot solar;
- Estimate the cost of meeting the DC solar carve-out of 15% of the retail load by 2041 and the benefits to the District's electrical grid and the District's clean energy goals (including the Solar for All program);
- Assess the cost and benefits (Capacity and energy) of integrating battery storage into residential rooftops, commercial rooftops, and parking lots solar installations;

- Comprehensively assess the costs and benefits – including quantification of social, health, and environmental benefits of solar in the District of Columbia;
- Based on the tasks above, create a Microsoft Excel-based model that can be used to assess changes in inputs and assumptions used to assess the potential for solar with associated costs and benefits.
- Identify constraints and potential solutions that will affect the DC’s ability to meet the 15% solar carve-out by 2041;
- Estimate the benefits and costs of the solar requirements of the D.C. Law 24-314 (Local Solar Expansion Amendment Act of 2022) compared with D.C. Law 22-142 (Solar Expansion for Cooperative Associations Act of 2018);
- Identify and propose rate design(s) that can facilitate solar deployment with minimal negative impacts on ratepayers not participating in solar energy generation;
- Compare the District's local solar energy policies to policies supporting the expansion of solar resources in other jurisdictions; and
- Based on the results of the study, offer recommendations regarding legislative and regulatory changes to ensure that ratepayers who are not participating in the solar energy market are not unduly impacted.

#### **IV. Qualifications**

Selected Offeror should have expertise and substantial knowledge of, and experience with, distributed solar energy policy and empirical analysis, electric utility distribution networks, local and regional electric reliability requirements, advanced metering infrastructure (smart grid) and a solid understanding of current and upcoming trends related to different types of solar, and solar plus storage technologies and regulatory incentives.

#### **SECTION 2- INDEPENDENT CAPACITY: NON-ASSIGNABILITY**

In the performance of work under the proposal and this RFP, the successful Offeror and any agents and employees shall act independently and not as officers or employees of the District of Columbia government. The successful Offeror shall not assign nor transfer any interest under a contract or request for work resulting from this RFP without the prior written consent of OPC.

### **SECTION 3 – INDEMNIFICATION**

The successful Offeror agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Office of the People’s Counsel and the District of Columbia government, its officers, employees and agents from any and all claims and/or losses accruing or resulting to persons, firms, or corporations who may be injured or damaged by the successful Offeror in the performance of its duties and responsibilities under the proposal accepted by OPC and also from and against any liability, including costs and expenses, for violation of proprietary rights, copyrights, or rights of privacy or confidentiality arising out of the publication, translation, reproduction, delivery, performance, use or disposition of any data furnished pursuant to this engagement or based on any libelous or otherwise unlawful matter contained in such data.

### **SECTION 4 – ACCESS TO RECORDS**

The successful Offeror agrees that OPC, through its authorized agents and employees, shall have the right to examine and audit such books, records, and other documents in the possession or control of the successful Offeror as necessary to verify the fees, charges and expenses billed to the Office under this engagement.

### **SECTION 5 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROPOSALS, WORK PAPERS AND MATERIALS**

The proposal filed in response to this RFP shall be considered a public document and will be available for public inspection upon received by OPC. The successful Offeror agrees that the Office shall own and have unlimited right to all interim and final written testimony, exhibits, or reports, and that the successful Offeror shall not assert any rights or establish any claim under existing copyright, patent, or data law as to such material or processes. The successful Offeror further agrees that upon request it will submit to the Office original or legible copies of all work papers created by the successful Offeror in support of its testimony, exhibits, or reports during the course of this engagement.

### **SECTION 6 – TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

This RFP does not bind or otherwise commit OPC to enter into a contract or to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of a proposal in response to this request. OPC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received, to negotiate with all qualified sources, or to cancel or modify this RFP in whole or in part. OPC reserves the right to request additional written data, information, oral discussion, or presentations in support of any written proposal or portion thereof which is deemed necessary to clarify any aspect of a proposal.

### **SECTION 7 – TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

It is understood and agreed that if, through any cause or for any reason, the successful Offeror fails to fulfill in a timely and professional manner the obligations under the successful proposal, or violates any of the terms of this RFP or contract entered into pursuant to this RFP, the Office shall have the right to terminate the contract by giving written notice of termination. In the event of such termination, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, testimony, exhibits, or

other material prepared or being prepared pursuant to this engagement shall, at the option of the Office, become OPC’s property and the successful Offeror shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any reasonably satisfactory work performed.

**SECTION 8 – TIMING/DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

The times stated in this document refer to Eastern Standard Time (EST). The proposal closing date is **no later than 4:00 p.m. EST on January 13, 2025**. Any proposals received after this deadline will not be considered. Please submit **an electronic copy (email attachment) to:**

Name: Naunihal Gumer  
Title: Director of Regulatory Finance  
Office of the People’s Counsel for the District of Columbia  
655 15th Street, N.W. Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Email Address: **NGumer@OPC-DC.Gov**

**SECTION 10– ELIGIBLE OFFERORS**

To be eligible, the Offeror must demonstrate technical capabilities, competence, and resources to perform the duties as delineated in the Scope of Work in Section 1 of this RFP.

**SECTION 11 – PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**

See Attachment A.

**SECTION 12 – SOURCE SELECTION**

The Office will award the contract to the Offeror that, in light of all factors, best meets the requirements of this RFP. Each proposal will be evaluated in accordance with the procedures set forth in this RFP. OPC’s selection of a successful Offeror will be based on the Evaluation Criteria in Attachment B.

**SECTION 13 – ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES<sup>1</sup>**

Deadline for submission of proposals **December 31, 2024**

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<sup>1</sup> Dates are subject to change.

**SECTION 14 – LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A	Proposal Requirements
Attachment B	Proposal Evaluation Criteria

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **SECTION A: PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **A.1. List of Required Documentation**

Offerors will be required to submit the following information with their proposals.

- a. An executive summary that provides an overview of work to be performed.
- b. A general contractor capability statement of the Offeror's experience.
- c. Copy of the District of Columbia Business License, if applicable.
- d. Copy of District of Columbia Certified Business Enterprise Certification, if applicable.
- e. A list of area(s) of expertise.
- f. A list of years of experience.

#### **A.2 Work Plan(s)**

Offerors must briefly describe clearly and specifically their proposals for carrying out the responsibilities associated with the Scope of Work in Section 1 of this RFP. Additionally, Offerors should be prepared to clearly and completely describe in detail their proposals as soon as possible after the contract award, including a timeline for all deliverables. The timeline must identify the key milestones, tasks, activities and events outlined in the Scope of Work.

#### **A.3 Prior Experience and Qualifications**

Offerors must describe their prior experience and qualifications with respect to their knowledge and experience for the tasks outlined in Scope of Work in Section 1 of this RFP.

#### **A.4 Personnel**

Offerors must designate one individual as the project manager and this individual shall be responsible for project management, reporting, coordination, and accountability for the entire project.

#### **A.5 Budget**

Financial resources must be adequately and appropriately allocated among cost categories in a cost-effective and prudent business manner to accomplish the RFP objectives and activities. Services to be purchased from other agencies, subcontractors, consultants, and others must be specified.

Each proposal must contain an itemized cost breakdown for services to be provided by Offeror to OPC. OPC reserves the right to disallow expenses charged for this engagement if OPC determines such expenses are unreasonable.

#### **A.6 Statement Regarding Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Each Offeror must identify any relationships between itself or its employees and the companies

under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of such companies. The extent, nature, and time aspects must be identified. If there are or have been no such relationships, a statement to that effect shall be included in the proposal. Failure to provide the statement on potential conflicts of interest will automatically disqualify the Offeror.



## ATTACHMENT B

### Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Representatives of OPC will evaluate all responses received by the deadline. A 100-point scale will be used to create the final evaluation recommendation.

The factors and weighting on which proposals will be judged are:

1)	Expressed understanding of the project objectives	30%
2)	Technical competence of the proposal, work plan, and project approach	35%
4)	Budget	25%
5)	District Government Certified Small Business Enterprise Certification	10%

The successful Offeror will be chosen based on the Proposal Evaluation and Interview Performance.

OPC reserves the right to waive any minor irregularities in the proposal request process. OPC reserves the right to interview any, all, or none of the respondents at its discretion. OPC shall not be liable for any expenses associated with the preparation of the proposal.