

Heat Pump Technology Attraction Strategy: Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC) RFP 12383

Questions & Answers Posted June 4, 2021

All questions have been anonymized. In some cases, similar questions have been combined for efficiency. If you have submitted a question and feel that it is not answered here, please contact Vancouver Economic Commission at info@vancouvereconomic.com.

PROJECT SCOPE

To what extent is VEC looking for clarity on “product availability” (specific product types and categories) and “installation capacity” (e.g. service providers)?

The overall intention of this study is to assess the availability of product and identify unit types readily available at a reasonable cost in BC, as well as those that are less available and less cost-competitive. While installation capacity is a relevant issue to be discussed – particularly where interviewees and stakeholders within the Steering Committee raise the topic – it is not intended to be the primary focus of this research.

To what extent are you interested in clarity about building types (i.e. commercial, multi-family, single family)?

An ideal proposal would cover heat pump equipment availability for all or most of these categories. However, VEC is open to receiving proposals that cover only what is possible within a reasonable timeline and budget.

Additionally, VEC has left space in this RFP for consultants to consider whether domestic hot water and combined systems are possible within a competitive timeline and budget, or if the scope should be limited to air source heat pumps (ASHPs) alone.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

How do you intend to use the report? Will it be made public in part or in entirety?

VEC plans to make some aspects of the final report and strategy public, particularly where it showcases economic opportunities for British Columbian and Canadian manufacturers and product suppliers to fill gaps – this would likely correspond with the deliverables from the first phase of the project. However, the final target list of companies and detailed process map for the strategy, especially as it pertains to the intention of a government and industry working group, will remain internal documents.

Who is your readership outside of VEC?

VEC will share the entire report, including all technical analysis and the final strategy, with the Steering Committee that oversees this project. Additional sharing with government departments and agencies and industry bodies will occur on an as-needed and as-requested basis. VEC reserves the right to release materials in the future, but as of now has no plans to do so.

PROJECT GOVERNANCE AND TIMELINE

Who is on the Steering Committee?

VEC is currently assembling the Steering Committee, and will have appointed its members by the conclusion of contract negotiations. The project will engage stakeholders from the provincial government, certification and standards agencies (at both a provincial and federal level), local governments, industry groups, professional associations, and investment and trade actors (e.g., the BC Trade Commissioner's Service).

Is it possible to extend the bid submission deadline?

VEC is interested in quality bids for this project. After receiving feedback that the current deadline might be difficult to meet, the team has opted to extend the bid submission deadline by two weeks, to June 30.

Is there flexibility with the initial project deliverables, within the timeline VEC indicated in the RFP?

VEC laid out the timeline of deliverables as a best-guess estimate. Alterations to this timeline are welcome, based on the experience and insights of proponents. Furthermore, some elements of the project can be undertaken in parallel; if re-ordering deliverables will better advance the work, proponents should explain their reasoning in the bid.