



Energy Economy Planning and Growth Program (PON 6201)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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The following is a list of responses to questions submitted by prospective respondents to the Energy Economy Planning and Growth Program (PON 6201). A copy of the PON is available at:

https://portal.nyserda.ny.gov/CORE_Solicitation_Detail_Page?SolicitationId=a0rcr00001COIXwAAL&_gl=1*1hupeei*_gcl_au*NTI0Mjk1MDA5LjE3ODYzNjk0MTA.*_ga*MTkyMDkzMTU3Mi4xNzIzNTc2MjEz*_ga_DRYJB34TXH*czE3ODg4ODczNDMkbzEwMDgkZzEkdDE3ODg4ODgyOTAkajQyJGwwJGgwJGRuZG1rQjVPRUk1VkNGMGZLN0ZtZ0lTMWZKQWMyUjBCVmNn.

	Question	Answer
1	Is it possible to get approval for a consultant outside of the list? If so, what does that process look like?	For Categories A and B: Proposers responding to Category A or B in this Program must select and work with one of the pre-approved Contractors, including in the development of the Proposal Narrative. Additional consulting firms may be included in the proposal as a stakeholder or team. However, those additional consulting firms will be considered part of the cost share and cannot be paid for out of NYSERDA funds. Under Categories A and B: NYSERDA funds ONLY pay a pre-approved Energy Supply Chain Regional Planning Contractor selected under Request for Qualifications (RFQL 6084) under Category A “Supply Chain Regional Planning”. See list of Contractors here. For Category C: a proposer is not required to use a Contractor from the prequalified list.



2	Would a consulting firm such as XYZ Industries be eligible to serve as the lead proposer/applicant if we team with an eligible Economic Development Entity and an approved RFQL 6084 Contractor? Alternatively, for Categories A and B, does NYSERDA require that the official proposer/applicant itself be the Economic Development Entity, with consulting firms permitted only as subcontractors, team members, or supporting partners?	For Categories A, B, and C: Proposers must be any Economic Development Entity with a demonstrated capability of driving regional commitments, collaboration, and implementation. Proposers may be public, for-profit, and/or non-profit entities. NYSERDA's intent is: • Economic Development Entity: Lead proposer/applicant • RFQL 6084 Contractor: Required planning contractor (for Categories A and B) • XYZ Industries: Subconsultant/team member
3	What kind of enterprises are expected to be the applicants for such funding? Although XYZ Industries is not a prequalified provider on the list, can we bring an applicant to the funding and serve as their consulting resource?	As stated on page 4 of the PON, Proposers are: "Any organization with a demonstrated ability to lead local or regional economic development planning and/or Energy Economy supply chain growth initiatives is eligible to submit proposals. Proposers must be any Economic Development Entity with a demonstrated capability of driving regional commitments, collaboration, and implementation. Proposers may be public, for-profit, and/or non-profit entities." Please see Question #1 for question around using prequalified Contractors.
4	Page 1 of the PON document states the following: "Proposers may submit Word, Excel, or PDF files (file formats include: csv, doc, docx, gif, jpeg, jpg, pdf, png, ppt, pptx, pps, ppsx, tif, txt, xls, xlsx, and zip)." Just to make sure that I understand correctly, are proposal documents required to be submitted in only Word (.doc, .docx), Excel (.xls, .xlsx), or pdf format, or are documents submitted in the other formats listed also allowable?	You can upload any of the listed file formats.



5	Regarding Category A, could you please clarify whether a multi-region focus is required, or whether a proposal focused on a single New York region would also be eligible?	Category A is intended to support plans for one defined REDC region (see PON page 3 for map of REDC Regions). Category A proposal should address the REDC Region as a whole. For Category A: Proposers must create a Steering Committee who will be responsible for providing overall direction, reviewing deliverables, and providing feedback. As part of their proposal, Proposers should have sufficient representation from the REDC Region through Steering Committee participation or from Letters of Support describing planned participation. Representation from every county in the REDC region is strongly encouraged and will be considered in the evaluation of proposals. Representation from every county is defined as representation from several local organizations or one regional organization that represents the entire Region. Please note Evaluation Criteria listed on page 10 of the PON: “For Category A only: the extent to which the plan considers complementary assets, capabilities, or gaps in neighboring or other REDC regions.”
6	Would an existing NYSERDA-supported strategy or plan qualify as the "comparable strategy" necessary for a Category C implementation proposal?	The proposal would need to show that these documents provide a coherent Energy Economy or cleantech economic development strategy, identify the priority recommendations being implemented, and establish a clear connection between the proposed activities and measurable outcomes. The existing planning work could support the proposal, but as stated on page 5 of the PON: “NYSERDA will not pay for efforts that have already been undertaken. The proposer or proposing team cannot claim as cost-share any expenses that have already been incurred.”



7	Is there a distinct focus on activities related only to supply chain development for this PON, or would infrastructure deployments relevant to the energy economy be considered competitive?	The intent of the PON is to provide expert technical assistance for Energy Economy supply chain plans and resources for implementation actions stemming from those plans/strategies.
8	Is the underlying program funding for category A projects federal or state funds? Meaning, can federal funds be used as match?	As stated on page 5 of the PON, cost sharing can be from other non-NYSERDA government sources including federal funds.
9	On scope of the Energy Economy definition, the definition names energy efficiency technologies. Does supply chain and contractor capacity work in building efficiency and building envelope fall inside the definition, or is the emphasis on manufacturing and production?	Yes, building efficiency and building envelope energy improvements would fall inside the definition of Energy Economy. Examples of activities that are eligible for funding in order to support Energy Economy supply chain retention and growth can be found in Section II Program Requirements of the PON.
10	Would an MPO be eligible to apply? Federal law requires MPO to undertake regional transportation planning following 10 federal planning factors, one of which is Economic Vitality: Support regional productivity and global competitiveness by keeping the movement of people and freight efficient.	Yes, a Metropolitan Planning Organization would be eligible to apply. However, they need to meet Category-specific teaming and stakeholder requirements.
11	For category C, does work related to transitioning or repowering existing fossil generation assets, for example peaker plant replacement, fall within scope?	The proposal would need to show that these documents provide a coherent Energy Economy or cleantech economic development strategy, identify the priority recommendations being implemented, and establish a clear connection between the proposed activities and measurable outcomes.



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12	Regarding incrementality, for category C, NYSERDA won't fund work already undertaken. How is that line drawn when an applicant has an existing publicly funded program? If a city contract ends partway through, can NYSERDA fund a successor phase of related work, or is that treated as continuation?	This is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. As stated on page 5 of the PON: “NYSERDA will not pay for efforts that have already been undertaken. The proposer or proposing team cannot claim as cost-share any expenses that have already been incurred.”
13	For a Battery Energy technology manufacturer seeking to establish a production line in New York by reshoring supply chain components from overseas partners, is Category C (Implementation Support) the most appropriate track, provided we partner with a New York Economic Development Entity?	No, it would not be appropriate for Category C. Category C is intended to fund strategies/recommendations that strengthen the region’s competitiveness for Energy Economy supply chain investments and jobs.
14	Can non-NYSERDA funds spent on preliminary hardware validation and out-of-state component engineering be counted toward the required 20% non-NYSERDA cost share, as long as NYSERDA funding is spent 100% within New York State?	The objective of the solicitation is to bolster in-state supply chains, not to fund specific product development.
15	Are capital costs allowed in the Implementation Category and if so, what might be the minimum lease term requirement for expenditure of NYSERDA funds on upfit / renovations? For instance, if an Econ Development entity is seeking to attract a	No, capital costs are not allowed under the Implementation Category.



	Clean Transport manufacturer to an underserved area, what length of lease does NYSERDA require in order to expend PON funding on capital improvements (i.e. electrical service upgrades, sprinkler installation, etc.)?	
16	What is the definition of cleantech businesses NYSERDA is using?	There is not a definition for “cleantech” in PON 6201. However, the “Cleantech Supply Chain Development Toolkit for Economic Developers” linked on page 3 of the PON defines “cleantech supply chain” as, “the materials and components required to build the technologies fueling the transition to a clean energy economy.” Examples in the Toolkit of those technologies fall into several categories including: Clean Power, Grid Equipment and Technology, Energy Storage, Clean Transportation, Clean Heating and Cooling, Green Hydrogen, Other Critical Components and Materials
17	Are Contractors being compensated for their time writing proposals?	Contractors are not being compensated for their time writing proposals.