

845 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
T 860.563.0015
ctgreenbank.com



Request for Qualifications for On Call Third-Party Inspectors

To participate in the

Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP)

On Call Third-Party Inspector RFQ

Questions or clarifications about this document should be directed to:

Connecticut Green Bank
Residential Solar Investment Program
845 Brook Street (Building 2)
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Telephone: 860.563.0015
E-mail: smallsolar@ctgreenbank.com

This document is available on the following Green Bank Web page:

<http://www.ctgreenbank.com/about-us/open-rfps>

Executive Summary

The Connecticut Green Bank (Green Bank) was established by Connecticut's General Assembly on July 1, 2011. The Green Bank's vision is a world empowered by the renewable energy of community. The Green Bank's mission is to confront climate change and provide all of society a healthier and more prosperous future by increasing and accelerating the flow of private capital into markets that energize the green economy. As the nation's first Green Bank, the organization leverages public and private funds to drive investment and scale-up clean energy deployment in Connecticut. For more information about Connecticut's Green Bank, please visit www.ctgreenbank.com.

The Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP) was legislatively enabled through Section 106 of Public Act (PA) 11-80¹ and most recently updated by PA 15-194², PA 16-212³ and PA 19-35⁴, amending Connecticut General Statute (CGS) at Section 16-245ff⁵. PA 19-35 updated CGS Section 16-245ff to require that not more than 350 MW (updated from 300 MW) of new residential solar PV be deployed in Connecticut on or before December 31, 2022.

For more information about RSIP, see the RSIP RFQ/Program Guidelines⁶ and RSIP Terms and Conditions⁷ documents.

¹ PA 11-80: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/ACT/Pa/pdf/2011PA-00080-R00SB-01243-PA.pdf>, "An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Planning for Connecticut's Energy Future."

² PA 15-194: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/act/pa/pdf/2015PA-00194-R00HB-06838-PA.pdf>, "An Act Concerning the Encouragement of Local Economic Development and Access to Residential Renewable Energy."

³ PA 16-212: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/act/pa/pdf/2016PA-00212-R00SB-00366-PA.pdf>, "An Act Concerning Administration of the Connecticut Green Bank, the Priority of the Benefit Assessments Lien under the Green Bank's Commercial Sustainable Energy Program and the Green Bank's Solar Home Renewable Energy Credit Program."

⁴ PA 19-35: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/ACT/pa/pdf/2019PA-00035-R00HB-05002-PA.pdf>, "An Act Concerning a Green Economy and Environmental Protection."

⁵ https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_283.htm#sec_16-245ff (Residential Solar Investment Program)

⁶ https://ctgreenbank.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Contractor-RFQ_112019_Final.pdf

⁷ http://www.ctgreenbank.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/RSIP-Combined-TC_110116_Ext.pdf

1. Purpose

The Connecticut Green Bank (“Green Bank”) seeks proposals from qualified consultants (“Contractor”) to advise and consult regarding Solar PV Inspections for RSIP. Inspectors will be required to conduct site visits at residential sites utilizing Green Bank funds to ensure that systems are installed properly, safely and to specification. Inspectors will also be required to coordinate and correspond with installers in order to address any issues in the field, as well as upload reports to Green Bank’s online workflow management tool, PowerClerk. A working knowledge of solar PV and completion of the “Application – Inspector Qualification Form” (“Application” - separate document) is required. Contractors may be asked if they could perform inspections for other Green Bank projects, if needed. Approval as a third-party inspector does not provide any guarantees of workload volume. Inspectors will be required to budget their time accordingly and notify staff of any expected change in availability.

2. Scope of Services

- Perform routine solar PV inspections throughout the state of CT
- Ability to communicate effectively and professionally with solar PV installers, homeowners and staff
- Possession of and ability to use solar shading analysis tools (i.e., Solar PathFinder)
- Ability to evaluate and confirm azimuth and tilt of a solar array
- Knowledge of PV components, (i.e., inverters, modules, monitoring equipment)
- Working knowledge of current and applicable National Electrical Code with particular emphasis on Article 690
- Previous experience either designing, installing, or inspecting solar PV (and/or battery back-up technologies)
- Previous coursework with solar PV is preferred (i.e., NABCEP Certification)
- Ability to manage a varied workload including the scheduling of appointments with homeowners and installers
- Ability to work with online workflow management tools (i.e., PowerClerk, MS Office etc.)

3. Proposal Process

Contractors interested in submitting documentation under this RFQ shall carefully examine the RFQ and any and all amendments, exhibits, revisions, and other data and materials provided with respect to this RFQ process. Contractors should familiarize themselves with all proposal requirements prior to submitting their proposal. Should the applicant note any discrepancies, require clarifications or

wish to request interpretations of any kind, the applicant shall submit a written request to Bill Colonis by email (bill.colonis@ctgreenbank.com). Green Bank shall respond to such written requests in kind and may, if it so determines, disseminate such written responses to other prospective applicants.

This is a rolling RFQ. Contractors interested in submitting a proposal under this RFQ must observe the following requirements:

- (1) Proposals shall be submitted electronically using the attached application to Bill Colonis at the following email address:
bill.colonis@ctgreenbank.com.
- (2) Contractors will be required to interview with Green Bank in person or via phone.

3.1. Proposal Format

(1) APPLICATION

1. General background of Contractor, including history of the company, number of employees, clients and retail projects evaluated, including a description of the projects and their size.
2. Listing of three (3) clients for reference use for whom Contractor has performed similar services as those contemplated by this RFQ. Please include the name and telephone number(s) of the contact person at each reference.
3. Description of any litigation, pending judgments, etc., which could affect the proposer's ability to enter into an agreement with Green Bank. Include a description of the circumstances involved in any defaults by the proposer. If you have been subjected to any outside audits in the past three years, state by whom the audit was performed, for whom, the facility involved, and the results of the audit.

Include in the proposal any other information you may deem relevant or helpful in Green Bank's evaluation of Contractor or proposal.

(2) TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

All proposals which comply with submittal requirements will:

1. Set forth Contractor's areas of expertise from the description above.
2. Describe your overall approach, plans, and qualifications for accomplishing the specific services described above.
3. Provide the names of the employees in your company who would be assigned to this project, give a description of each person's experience and qualifications, indicate probable areas of responsibility.

4. Terms and Conditions of RFQ Participation

If Contractor elects to respond to this RFQ, submission of your proposal assumes the acceptance of the following understandings:

- a. Green Bank reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals received in response to the RFQ, to waive irregularities or to cancel or modify the RFQ in any way, and at any Green Bank chooses, in its sole discretion, if Green Bank determines that it is in the interest of Green Bank.
- b. Green Bank further reserves the right to make awards under this RFQ without discussion of the proposals received. Proposals should be submitted on the most favorable terms from a technical, qualifications, and price standpoint. Green Bank reserves the right not to accept the lowest priced proposal.
- c. Proposals must be signed by an authorized officer of the Contractor. Proposals must also provide name, title, address and telephone number for individuals with authority to negotiate and contractually bind Contractor, and for those who may be contacted for the purpose of clarifying or supporting the information provided in the proposal.
- d. Green Bank will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any proposer in conjunction with the preparation or presentation of any proposal with respect to this RFQ.
- e. Green Bank's selection of a Contractor through this RFQ is not an offer and Green Bank reserves the right to continue negotiations with the selected Contractor until the parties reach a mutual agreement.
- f. Contractor will execute a **nonnegotiable** Professional Service Agreement (PSA) as set forth in the attached Exhibit A.

GREEN BANK IS SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN SECTIONS 16-245N OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES. GREEN BANK SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY OR OBLIGATION OF ANY SORT HEREUNDER, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, IF FOR ANY REASON OR NO REASON A BINDING AGREEMENT IS NOT ENTERED INTO WITH ANY PROPOSER. IN MAKING ITS SELECTION OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS, GREEN BANK MAY CONSIDER ANY AND ALL FACTORS AND CONSIDERATIONS WHICH GREEN BANK, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, DEEMS RELEVANT, THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF WHICH SHALL BE IN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF GREEN BANK.

ATTACHMENT A

STANDARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

This Standard Professional Services Agreement (“Agreement”) is made on **INSERT DATE** (“Effective Date”), by and between the CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK (“Green Bank”), a quasi-public agency of the State of Connecticut, having its business address at 845 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, and **INSERT NAME** (“Consultant”), having its business address at **INSERT ADDRESS**. Green Bank and Consultant together are the Parties and each individually is a Party to this Agreement.

WHEREAS, INSERT SUMMARY LANGUAGE AS NECESSARY; and

WHEREAS, INSERT SUMMARY LANGUAGE AS NECESSARY;

NOW, THEREFORE, Green Bank and Consultant, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows:

1. **Scope of Services.** Consultant shall provide Green Bank with professional consulting services (“Work”) as detailed in Consultant’s proposal in Attachment A, which is incorporated into this Agreement. **In the event of a conflict between the terms and conditions in this Agreement and the terms and conditions in the Proposal, this Agreement shall control.**

[INSTEAD OF AN ATTACHMENT, YOU MAY DROP-IN THE SCOPE OF SERVICES.]

2. **Period of Performance.** Green Bank agrees to retain Consultant, and Consultant agrees to perform the Work under this Agreement, beginning on the Effective Date and ending twelve (12) months from the Effective Date (“Period of Performance”), unless earlier terminated in accordance with Section 8 of this Agreement. The Parties can extend the Period of Performance only by a written amendment to this Agreement signed and dated by Green Bank and Consultant.

3. **Payment.** Green Bank agrees to pay Consultant for the Work performed within the Scope of Services of this Agreement, but in an amount not-to-exceed **INSERT AMOUNT** inclusive of hourly fees and any other expenses. The person(s), and their title and their hourly rate, performing the Work under this Agreement are as follows:

INSERT NAME(S) AND TITLE(S)

INSERT HOURLY RATE

THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF THIS AGREEMENT CAN BE MODIFIED BY THE PARTIES ONLY BY A WRITTEN AMENDMENT SIGNED AND DATED BY GREEN BANK AND CONSULTANT PRIOR TO ANY WORK TO BE PERFORMED BY CONSULTANT WHICH WOULD RESULT IN PAYMENTS IN EXCESS OF THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF THIS AGREEMENT.

4. **Invoices.** Consultant shall submit itemized monthly invoices with detailed accounting for hourly fees. All invoices shall be subject to Green Bank's approval for conformity with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. For approved invoices, Green Bank will pay Consultant within thirty (30) days of receipt by Green Bank of an invoice. Consultant agrees to include the PSA #, which can be found at the top of this Agreement, on all invoices submitted to Green Bank in connection with Work performed under this Agreement. Invoices shall be submitted to:

Connecticut Green Bank
845 Brook Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Attn: Accounts Payable Department

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL GREEN BANK ACCEPT INVOICE(S) SUBMITTED BY CONSULTANT WHICH THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE INVOICE(S) EXCEEDS THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF THIS AGREEMENT.

5. **Subcontracting or Assignment.** Consultant shall not subcontract, assign, or delegate any portions of the Work under this Agreement to any other person or entity not identified in Section 3, above, without prior written approval from Green Bank.

6. **Independent Contractor.** Consultant understands that it is acting as an independent contractor and shall not hold itself out as representing or acting in any manner on behalf of Green Bank except within the Scope of Work of this Agreement or any other active agreements between Green Bank and Consultant.

7. **Disclosure of Information.** Consultant agrees to disclose to Green Bank any information discovered or derived in the performance of the Work required under this Agreement. Consultant shall not disclose to others any such information, any information received or derived in performance of this Agreement, or any information relating to Green Bank without the prior written permission of Green Bank, unless such information is otherwise available in the public domain.

8. **Termination.** (a) This Agreement may be terminated by either Party giving ten (10) business days prior written notice to the other Party. In the event of such termination, Green Bank shall be liable only for payment in accordance with the payment provisions of the Agreement for the Work actually performed prior to the date of termination.

(b) If this Agreement is not renewed at the end of this term, or is terminated for any reason, the Contractor must provide for a reasonable, mutually agreed period of time after the expiration or termination of this Agreement, all reasonable transition assistance requested by Green Bank, to allow for the expired or terminated portion of the services to continue without interruption or adverse effect, and to facilitate the orderly transfer of such services to Green Bank or its designees. Such transition assistance will be deemed by the Parties to be governed by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, except for those terms or

conditions that do not reasonably apply to such transition assistance. Green Bank will pay the Contractor for any resources utilized in performing such transition assistance at the most current rates provided by this Agreement. If there are no established contract rates, then the rate shall be mutually agreed upon. If Green Bank terminates this Agreement for cause, then Green Bank will be entitled to offset the cost of paying the Contractor for the additional resources the Contractor utilized in providing transition assistance with any damages Green Bank may have otherwise accrued as a result of said termination.

9. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability. Consultant agrees, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to indemnify and hold harmless Green Bank, its officers, directors, and employees against all damages, liabilities, or costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees and defense costs, to the extent caused by the Consultant's negligent performance of professional services under this Agreement and that of its sub-consultants or anyone for whom the Consultant is legally liable.

Neither Party shall be liable to the other Party for indirect, incidental, punitive, special, or consequential damages arising out of this Agreement, even if the Party has been informed of the possibility of such damages, including but not limited to, loss of profits, loss of revenues, failure to realize expected savings, loss of data, loss of business opportunity, or similar losses of any kind. However, this limitation shall not apply to damages of any kind related to criminal, intentional, reckless, or grossly negligent conduct or omissions on the part of either Party.

10. Quality of Service. Consultant shall perform the Work with care, skill, and diligence in accordance with the applicable professional standards currently recognized by his/her profession, and shall be responsible for the professional quality, technical accuracy, completeness, and coordination of all work product and/or Work furnished under this Agreement. If Consultant fails to meet applicable professional standards, Consultant shall, without additional compensation, correct or revise any errors or deficiencies in any work product and/or Work furnished under this Agreement.

11. Severability. In the event that any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, then such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Agreement, and all other provisions shall remain in full force and effect. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be excessively broad, then that provision shall be reformed and construed by limiting and reducing it to be enforceable to the maximum extent permitted by law.

12. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties hereto, and supersedes any previous agreement or understanding. This Agreement may not be modified or extended except in writing executed by the Parties.

13. Governing Law. The validity, interpretation, and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Connecticut. All disputes which arise in connection with, or in relation to, this Agreement or any claimed breach thereof shall be

resolved, if not sooner settled, by litigation only in Connecticut or the Federal Court otherwise having subject matter jurisdiction over the dispute and not elsewhere, subject only to the authority of the Court in question to order changes of venue. To this end, Consultant waives any rights it may have to insist that litigation related to this Agreement to which Consultant is a party be had in any venue other than the above court, and covenants not to sue Green Bank in court other than the above courts with respect to any dispute related to this Agreement.

14. State Contracting Obligations. Consultant understands and agrees that Green Bank will comply with Conn. Gen. Stat. Sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a. Consultant agrees to comply for the Period of Performance with the state contracting obligations in this Section 14. For purposes of this Section 14, Contractor and Consultant shall have the same meaning and Contract and Agreement shall have the same meaning.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4a-60(a):

“Every contract to which the state or any political subdivision of the state other than a municipality is a party shall contain the following provisions:

(1) The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, status as a veteran, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut; and the contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, status as a veteran, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved;

(2) The contractor agrees, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, to state that it is an "affirmative action-equal opportunity employer" in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission;

(3) The contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which such contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the commission advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under

this section, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment;

(4) The contractor agrees to comply with each provision of C.G.S. Sections 4a-60, 46a-68e and 46a-68f and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said commission pursuant to C.G.S. Sections 46a-56, 46a-68e, 46a-68f and 46a-86; and

(5) The contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (the "commission") with such information requested by the commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the contractor as relate to the provisions of C.G.S. Sections 4a-60 and 46a-56."

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4a-60a(a):

"Every contract to which the state or any political subdivision of the state other than a municipality is a party shall contain the following provisions:

(1) The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their sexual orientation;

(2) The contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which such contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under C.G.S. Section 4a-60a, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment;

(3) The contractor agrees to comply with each provision of C.G.S. Section 4a-60a and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said commission pursuant to C.G.S. Section 46a-56; and

(4) The contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the contractor which relate to the provisions of C.G.S. Sections 4a-60a and 46a-56."

Nondiscrimination Certification. Consultant represents and warrants that, prior to entering into this Agreement, Consultant has provided Green Bank with

documentation evidencing Consultant's support of the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties of the statutory nondiscrimination sections, above. A form of the Nondiscrimination Certification to be signed by the Consultant is attached.

Occupational Safety and Health Act Compliance. Consultant certifies it (1) has not been cited for three or more willful or serious violations of any occupational safety and health act or of any standard, order or regulation promulgated pursuant to such act, during the three-year period preceding the date of the Agreement, provided such violations were cited in accordance with the provisions of any state occupational safety and health act or the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, and not abated within the time fixed by the citation and such citation has not been set aside following appeal to the appropriate agency or court having jurisdiction or (2) has not received one or more criminal convictions related to the injury or death of any employee in the three-year period preceding the date of the Agreement.

15. Limitation on Recourse. All liabilities and obligations of Green Bank under this Agreement are subject and limited to the funding available under Connecticut law.

16. Non-impairment and Assessment. As a further inducement for the Consultant to enter into this Agreement, subsection (h) of section 16-245n of the Conn. General Statutes is incorporated into this Agreement.

17. Freedom of Information Act. Green Bank is a "public agency" for purposes of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). This Agreement and information received pursuant to this Agreement will be considered public records and will be subject to disclosure under the FOIA, except for information falling within one of the exemptions in Conn. Gen. Stat. Sections § 1-210(b) and § 16-245n(d).

Because only the particular information falling within one of these exemptions can be withheld by Green Bank pursuant to an FOIA request, Consultant should specifically and in writing identify to Green Bank the information that Consultant claims to be exempt. Consultant should further provide a statement stating the basis for each claim of exemption. It will not be sufficient to state generally that the information is proprietary or confidential in nature and not, therefore, subject to release to third parties. A convincing explanation and rationale sufficient to justify each exemption consistent with General Statutes §1-210(b) and § 16-245n(d) must be provided.

Consultant acknowledges that (1) Green Bank has no obligation to notify Consultant of any FOIA request it receives, (2) Green Bank may disclose materials claimed by Consultant to be exempt if in its judgment such materials do not appear to fall within a statutory exemption, (3) Green Bank may in its discretion notify Consultant of FOIA requests and/or of complaints made to the Freedom of Information Commission

concerning items for which an exemption has been claimed, but Green Bank has no obligation to initiate, prosecute, or defend any legal proceeding, or to seek to secure any protective order or other relief to prevent disclosure of any information pursuant to an FOIA request, (4) Consultant will have the burden of establishing the availability of any FOIA exemption in any such legal proceeding, and (5) in no event shall Green Bank or any of its officers, directors, or employees have any liability for the disclosure of documents or information in Green Bank's possession where Green Bank, or such officer, director, or employee, in good faith believes the disclosure to be required under the FOIA or other law.

18. Execution and Facsimile. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts (including those delivered by facsimile or other electronic means), and each of such counterparts shall for all purposes be deemed to be an original; and all such counterparts, shall together constitute but one and the same agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK

By: _____
Bryan T. Garcia, President and CEO

CONSULTANT

By: _____
INSERT NAME
INSERT TITLE



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
NONDISCRIMINATION CERTIFICATION – Representation
By Entity
For Contracts Valued at Less Than \$50,000

Written representation that complies with the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties under Connecticut General Statutes §§ 4a-60(a)(1) and 4a-60a(a)(1), as amended

INSTRUCTIONS:

For use by an entity (corporation, limited liability company, or partnership) when entering into any contract type with the State of Connecticut valued at less than \$50,000 for each year of the contract. Complete all sections of the form. Submit to the awarding State agency prior to contract execution.

REPRESENTATION OF AN ENTITY:

I, _____, _____, of _____,
 Authorized Signatory Title Name of Entity

an entity duly formed and existing under the laws of _____,
 Name of State or Commonwealth

represent that I am authorized to execute and deliver this representation on behalf of

_____ and that _____
 Name of Entity Name of Entity

has a policy in place that complies with the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties of Connecticut General Statutes §§ 4a-60(a)(1) and 4a-60a(a)(1), as amended.

 Authorized Signatory Date

 Printed Name