



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

WOODY BIOMASS COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR RURAL COUNTIES IN MARYLAND

ISSUED BY:	Maryland Clean Energy Center 5000 College Avenue, Suite 31010 College Park, MD 20740
RFP RELEASE DATE:	November 4, 2024
PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE:	November 18, 2024 at 11:00 AM EST
RFP QUESTIONS DUE DATE:	November 27, 2024 by 12:00 PM EST
PROPOSAL DUE DATE:	December 9, 2024 by 5:00 PM EST
ANTICIPATED AWARD DATE:	January 31, 2025
PROCUREMENT OFFICER:	Ben Rupert, Director of Procurement Maryland Clean Energy Center Email: brupert@mdcleanenergy.org Phone: (301) 314-6061
CONTRACT MONITOR:	Maya Ross, Wood Energy Coordinator Maryland Clean Energy Center Email: maya.ross@mdcleanenergy.org Phone: (301) 314-6063
DIRECT INQUIRIES TO:	hmays@mdcleanenergy.org

Vendors are cautioned not to make changes to any of the terms and conditions in this solicitation. Doing so may render a Vendor's Qualifications Submittal unacceptable and subject to rejection. Questions and inquiries may be addressed as outlined in Section 1.5 of this solicitation. Any exceptions to MCEC terms and conditions are not binding unless they are negotiated and affirmatively deemed mutually agreeable by the Vendor and MCEC in an executed contract. MCEC is not required to negotiate changes to its terms and conditions.



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SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Maryland Clean Energy Center (“MCEC”) is a green bank and corporate instrumentality of the state of Maryland which advances the adoption of clean energy generation and storage, as well as energy efficiency projects, products, services and technologies. MCEC leverages private capital to help achieve clean energy and greenhouse gas mitigation goals in Maryland.

Since inception in 2009, MCEC has leveraged over \$198 million in private capital investment with approximately \$13.4 million in public funds and more than \$48 million in bond financing, to implement clean energy, climate resilience, and greenhouse reduction measures.

MCEC is governed by a Board of Directors that consists of nine individuals that bring a wide range of perspective and experience to MCEC’s operations. MCEC employs a small staff and the Attorney General’s Office provides legal services to the organization.

Procurement Objective

MCEC is requesting proposals from qualified individuals and firms to provide a detailed report demonstrating the potential benefits (and attending externalities) available to Mountain Maryland through increased utilization of woody biomass heating.

1.2 Issuing Office; Procurement Officer

Maryland Clean Energy Center
5000 College Ave
Suite 31010
College Park, Maryland 20740
Procurement Officer: Ben Rupert, Director of Procurement

Phone: (301) 314-6061

E-mail: brupert@mdcleanenergy.org

The sole point of contact for purposes of this procurement is the Procurement Officer. The Procurement Officer may designate others to act on his behalf. The MCEC Executive Director may change the Procurement Officer or change the limits of their authority at her discretion.

1.3 Schedule of Events

Event	Date
RFP Release Date	November 4, 2024
Deadline for Receipt of Letter of Intent/Questions	November 27, 2024 at 12:00 PM EST
Proposal Due Date	December 9, 2024 by 5:00 PM EST



Tentative Date of Contract Award

January 31, 2025

1.4 Pre-proposal Conference

A virtual pre-proposal conference will be held on **November 18, 2024 at 11:00 AM EST.**

1.5 Questions and Inquiries

All questions and inquiries should be directed to the Procurement Officer identified in Section 1.2 above. Questions must be submitted in writing by mail or email and received by the Procurement Officer by **12:00 PM EST on November 27, 2024** to be accepted. If a question or inquiry pertains to a specific section of the RFP, the page and section number(s) must be referenced.

1.6 Submission Deadline

To be eligible for consideration, responses must be received no later than **5:00 PM EST on December 9, 2024.** Proposals should be submitted electronically in the form of a PDF, with confirmation of receipt from the procurement officer.

Any response received after the submission deadline, no matter what the reason, will be deemed unacceptable. Proposals or unsolicited amendments to proposals arriving after the submission deadline and time will not be considered.

1.7 Duration of Offer

Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation are irrevocable for 120 days following the closing date. This period may be extended at the Procurement Officer's request only by an Offeror's written agreement.

1.8 Electronic Distribution

This RFP is available for distribution by email. Potential Offerors wishing to receive copies of the written document should contact the Procurement Officer.

SECTION II. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Purpose

The overall purpose of this RFP is to provide information to Offerors interested in preparing and submitting proposals to complete a cost-benefits analysis of woody biomass heating.

2.2 Revisions to the RFP

MCEC reserves the right to amend this RFP at any time prior to the proposal due date and time. If it becomes necessary to revise this RFP, amendments will be provided to all prospective Offerors that were sent this RFP or are otherwise known by the Procurement Officer to have obtained this RFP. Acknowledgment of the receipt of all amendments will be required.

2.3 Cancellation of the RFP; Rejection of All Proposals



MCEC may cancel this RFP, in whole or in part, or may reject all proposals submitted in response, whenever this action is determined to be fiscally advantageous to MCEC or otherwise in the State's best interest.

2.4 Proposal Acceptance; Discussions

MCEC reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals, in whole or in part, received in response to this RFP, to waive or permit cure of minor irregularities, and to conduct discussions with all qualified Offerors in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of MCEC. MCEC also reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to award a Contract based upon the written proposals received without prior discussions or negotiations.

2.5 Interviews/Oral Presentation

MCEC may conduct interviews with qualifying Offerors. In addition, in support of their proposals, Offerors may be required to make an oral presentation. Interviews and oral presentations must be conducted within two calendar weeks after MCEC has requested an Offeror to do so. Failure to meet with MCEC for an interview or to make an oral presentation within this time period may prevent the Offeror's proposal from receiving further consideration. The main point of contact proposed in the Offeror's proposal must be present during these interviews.

2.6 Incurred Expenses

MCEC will not be responsible for any costs incurred by an Offeror in preparing and submitting a proposal in response to this RFP.

2.7 Proposal Form

Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Offeror's proposal to meet the requirements of this procurement. Proposals shall be submitted to the Procurement Officer, per the terms of Section 1.6 of this RFP, by **5:00 PM EST on December 9, 2024** via email to the following address: brupert@mdcleanenergy.org.

2.8 Multiple Proposals

Multiple and alternate proposals will not be acceptable.

2.9 Access to Public Records Act Notice

An Offeror should give specific attention to the identification of those portions of its proposal that it considers confidential, proprietary commercial information or trade secrets, and provide justification for why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by MCEC under the Public Information Act, General Provisions Article, Title 4, Annotated Code of Maryland. Careful consideration should be given before confidential information is submitted to MCEC as part of your proposal. Review should include whether it is critical for evaluating a proposal, and whether general, non-confidential information, may be adequate for review purposes.



2.10 Proposal Opening

Proposals will not be opened publicly. When the contract is awarded, those portions of the proposal available under Maryland laws regarding access to public information will be made available upon written request to the Procurement Officer.

2.11 Compliance with Law

By submitting an offer in response to this RFP, the Offeror, if selected for award, agrees that it will comply with all federal, State of Maryland, and local laws, regulations, and rules applicable to its activities and obligations under the Contract.

2.12 Arrearages

By submitting an offer in response to this RFP, the Offeror shall be deemed to represent that it is not in arrears in the payment of any obligation due and owing the State of Maryland or any department or unit thereof, including the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and if selected for award, that it shall not become in arrears during the term of the Contract.

2.13 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

By submitting an offer in response to this RFP, an Offeror shall be deemed to have accepted all the terms, conditions, and requirements set forth in this RFP unless otherwise clearly noted and explained in its proposal.

2.14 Bid/Proposal Affidavit

A completed Bid/Proposal Affidavit must accompany all proposals submitted by an Offeror. A copy of this affidavit is included as **Appendix 1** attached to this RFP.

2.15 Contract Affidavit

All Offerors are advised that if a contract is awarded as a result of this solicitation, the successful Offeror will be required to complete a Contract Affidavit. A copy of this affidavit is included for informational purposes as **Appendix 3** attached to this RFP. This affidavit need not be submitted with an Offeror's proposal.

2.16 Order of Precedence

The contract between the parties will be embodied in the contract documents which will consist of the following, listed in their order of precedence:

1. The contract and contract modifications executed by both parties;
2. This RFP; and
3. Offeror's proposal.

Modifications of the order of precedence provision of this solicitation will not be accepted. If any terms and conditions inconsistent with the requirements of the solicitation are proposed, those terms and conditions must be stated in the proposal.



2.17 Contract Award

MCEC reserves the right to award one or more contracts under this solicitation if it is in the best interest of MCEC to do so. It may award a contract based on initial applications without discussion, or following limited discussion, negotiations, or interviews. Each offer should be submitted using the most favorable cost and technical terms. MCEC may request additional data or material to support applications. MCEC expects to notify Offerors on or about **January 31, 2025**, whether their proposal has been selected to receive an award.

2.18 RFP Modifications

MCEC also reserves the right to correct any arithmetic errors, to change the final due date and time for the proposals, to accept or reject any of the firm's employees assigned to provide services on this project, and to require their replacement at any time, and to reject any proposal containing false or misleading statements or that provides references that do not support an attribute or a condition claimed by the proposer.

2.19 Limitation

This solicitation does not commit MCEC to award a contract, pay any costs incurred in preparing a proposal, or to procure or contract for services or supplies. MCEC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received, to negotiate with all qualified sources, or to cancel in part or in its entirety the solicitation when it is in MCEC's best interest.

2.20 Performance of Services

The Offeror shall perform the services within the limits prescribed by MCEC in a manner consistent with that level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by other independent public financial advisors under similar circumstances at the time the services are performed.

2.21 Term

A contract to be awarded pursuant to the RFP shall begin on the date that the contract for this RFP is signed by both parties and continue until all deliverables are complete, as mutually agreed in writing by the Parties, and in any case no later than July 31, 2025.

SECTION III. SCOPE OF SERVICES

3.1 Background

MCEC is a State-public corporation and an instrumentality of the State of Maryland that has been authorized to:

- 1) Promote economic development and jobs in the clean energy industry sector in the State;
- 2) Promote the deployment of clean energy technology in the State;
- 3) Serve as an incubator for the development of clean energy industry in the State;
- 4) Collect, analyze, and disseminate industry data; and,



5) Provide outreach and technical support to further the clean energy industry in the State.

MCEC's program priorities include providing clean energy initiative funding, technology commercialization and business incubation, and workforce development and training.

3.2 Required Services

MCEC is seeking proposals to conduct a cost-benefits analysis on the increased use of woody biomass heating in Mountain Maryland. The successful offeror will deliver a comprehensive report detailing the potential economic and environmental benefits, with a focus on how increased biomass utilization impacts environmental justice and underserved/overburdened communities in the region. The goal is to provide a clear and thorough assessment of the advantages of woody biomass heating.

Additionally, this analysis will assist policymakers in making informed decisions regarding biomass utilization, in a manner consistent with the predicted costs and benefits. The analysis shall contain at a minimum the following information:

- A prediction of the potential environmental impacts of increased biomass utilization
- A holistic prediction of the economic effects, particularly in rural communities, of biomass adoption, including harvest, fuel processing and transport, and boiler installation and maintenance
- Effects at incremental levels of increased use over a 15-year period
 - Consider both increased utilization at 3 incremental levels (low-medium-high) and over varying amounts of time (5, 10, 15-years)
- Suggested policies to enhance benefits and ameliorate potential negative externalities
- Data from Garrett and Allegany Counties, MD, and any additional counties that can be completed within the listed budget
- Outline environmental and economic impacts as well as suggested policies to a variety of audiences, including state and local policy makers, environmental organizations, businesses, and municipal boosters.

The following deliverables shall be required of the Offeror:

- Structured analyses of increased biomass utilization at 5, 10, and 15-year intervals for a number of counties considering 3 markers of environmental health
- Structured analyses of increased biomass utilization at 5, 10, and 15-year intervals for a number of counties, estimating the amount of economic growth likely to result from the biomass industry in each period, including both growth in dollars and jobs created
- Complete report with a section on empirically supported policy regarding biomass.

The report must clearly communicate to each audience specified above, addressing relevant concerns, highlighting the environmental impacts, economic potential and impacts, as well as policy recommendations based on analyses.



Updates must be provided to the State Wood Energy Team (SWE Team), per the following tentative schedule:

- ~~December~~ – **Introduction:** Introduction to the SWE Team
- ~~February~~ – **Onboarding** – **Update one:** Provide information on methods of how environmental impact will be measured and determined and present an overview of findings
- ~~March~~~~April~~ – **Update two:** Provide information on methods of how economic impact will be determined and present an overview of findings
- ~~May~~~~July~~~~August~~ – **Update three:** Present information on the total effects of increased biomass utilization at three different levels at 5, 10, and 15 years.
- ~~June~~~~Late September~~, **Special meeting** – **Update four:** Develop policy recommendations to support biomass utilization to an extent supported by the data, as well as to ensure environmentally just outcomes; consult with SWE Team
- ~~November~~ – **Update five:** SWE Team to provide edits and feedback; address this feedback
- ~~July~~~~December~~ – **Final update six:** Present final report to SWE Team and provide finalized document.

SECTION IV. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Each bidder shall carefully examine the RFP and all amendments, exhibits, revisions, and other data and materials provided with respect to this RFP process. Bidders should familiarize themselves with all proposal requirements prior to submitting their proposal.

Proposals should be concise and focused on providing relevant information pertaining to the requirements outlined in this RFP. While the proposal should be thorough and detailed, Offerors should avoid excessive length or the inclusion of generic marketing materials. The use of expensive binders or elaborate graphics is discouraged.

Each page of the proposal should state the name of the Offeror and the page number. In addition, the proposal should contain:

- (a) Name of firm.
- (b) Mailing address of the office from which the proposal is being submitted.
- (c) Name of individual who will represent firm as primary contact person on matters relating to the proposal
- (d) Telephone number, fax number, and E-mail address, if applicable.
- (e) Hourly rates for no more than four classes of personnel: principal, professional, para-professional, and staff. The rates will include all expenses.



4.1 Eligibility Qualifications

4.1.1. Provide an overview of your firm to include background, organizational structure and primary contacts at the firm.

4.1.2. Briefly describe the services you expect to provide to MCEC. Discuss the approach your firm would take to meet the requirements of this RFP, including: a specific timeline and milestones for measurable outcomes; expectations for MCEC staff, stakeholder engagement; and plans for graphic presentation in delivery of reports.

Indicate whether your firm is prepared to render the services enumerated in this RFP using its own resources or if it intends to utilize subcontractors for a portion of the services described. If subcontractors, please indicate the percentage of services and list of specific services to be outsourced.

4.1.3. Briefly discuss your firm's experience with public entities and local municipalities, particularly agencies, authorities, and instrumentalities of the State of Maryland.

4.1.4. Describe any technical knowledge or related expertise with programs of similar nature to that described herein which may be of benefit to Program Administrators. Provide detailed summaries of at least three specific assignments/programs that describe the unique capabilities of your firm, the scope of work provided and the individual(s) that served as the primary contact(s) for your firm.

4.1.5. Provide the names of personnel in the firm who will be assigned to MCEC's account and their experience in performing services similar to those requested in this RFP.

- Include resumes for all employees proposed to be involved on MCEC's account.
- Include a description of each employee's function in the company, title, office address, and number of years of service with the firm and other relevant past experience.
- Describe the availability of the lead person(s) for consultation with Program Administrators, including his or her availability to meet with Program Administrators. (Resumes may be included as an appendix.)

4.1.6. Discuss fully any conflicts of interest, actual or perceived, which might arise in connection with your firm's involvement with MCEC. If conflicts do or might exist, describe how your firm would resolve them.

4.1.7. Identify any litigation or administrative proceedings to which you are a party, and which would either materially impair your ability to perform the services enumerated herein and for which this RFP was issued or, if decided in an adverse manner, materially adversely affect the financial condition of your firm.



- 4.1.8. Identify the employees that have been the subject of any investigation or disciplinary action by any Maryland ethical or regulatory authority. Describe briefly how any matter was resolved or whether it remains unresolved.
- 4.1.9. Identify if your firm or any employee has ever been disbarred or suspended by any agency of the U.S. Government or the State of Maryland.
- 4.1.10. Indicate if your firm is a minority and / or woman-owned business enterprise and provide the appropriate certification. If your firm is not a minority and / or woman-owned business enterprise, please furnish information on the number and percentages of minorities and women among the employees of the firm; a copy of the firm's affirmative action or equal opportunity plan or other commitment to affirmative action and equal employment opportunity; and an explanation of how your firm, if selected, would help MCEC further its policy of promoting participation of minorities and women in the provision of services to it, including services in support of its financing program.
- 4.1.11. Indicate the address of the office through which MCEC's account will be primarily serviced, and any anticipated travel or other such costs.
- 4.1.12. Provide three client references. The list must include references related to projects/programs for which (i) the proposed principal consultant played a lead role and (ii) the services provided were similar to the services expected to be provided under this RFP. MCEC reserves the right to contact any previous client whether or not provided as a reference.
- 4.1.13. Provide any other information that you believe would make your firm's representation of MCEC superior to other firms' representation, including descriptions of your firm's role in recommending innovative or unique ideas or concepts.
- 4.1.13. Proprietary Information: Trade secrets or proprietary information submitted by Offeror shall not be subject to public disclosure, per the terms of the Maryland Public Information Act. However, the offeror must notify MCEC, in writing, either before or at the time the data or other material is submitted. The written notice must specifically identify the data or materials to be protected, including the section of the proposal in which it is contained, the page numbers, and state the reasons why protection is necessary. The classification of an entire proposal document, line-item prices and/or total proposal prices as proprietary or trade secrets is not acceptable. If, after being given reasonable time, the offeror refuses to withdraw such a classification designation, the proposal will be rejected.

4.2 Cost

- 4.2.1. The maximum Not to Exceed budget for this project is \$63,000. Appendix 4 provides the payment schedule.



- 4.2.2. Delineate all costs anticipated to be associated with this assignment. The rates will include all expenses. Fees will be applicable for the term of the contract between MCEC and the winning Offeror, and all extensions of the contract. Respondents are encouraged to provide pricing for both one time and ongoing deliverables as specified above in Section 3.2 Required Services.
- 4.2.3. State any special considerations with respect to billing or payment of fees and expenses that your firm offers and that you believe would differentiate you from other proposers and make your firm's services more cost-effective for MCEC.

SECTION V. PROPOSAL FORMAT

5.1 Transmittal Letter

A brief transmittal letter prepared on the Offeror's business stationery should accompany the original and required copies of the proposal. The letter must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the Offeror to all statements, including services and prices, contained in the proposal. The transmittal letter should also indicate that, if selected, the Offeror will execute a contract with MCEC.

5.2 Proposal Body

Proposals should address all items requested in Section 4 of this RFP. Each of the elements within those sections is expected to be addressed in all submitted proposals. However, additions may be made where necessary for purposes of clarification or amplification. **Please limit proposals to 15 pages.**

SECTION VI. PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposals meeting the RFP requirements will be evaluated as follows:

A selection committee consisting of representatives from MCEC and outside subject matter experts will review the Proposals to determine if they each meet the requirements of this RFP. Following this initial review, the selection committee will review all Price Proposals. Following this review, MCEC may develop a short list of Offerors who will be eligible for further consideration and will be asked to interview with and/or make oral presentations to the selection committee as set forth in Section 2.5 above. Following any presentations or, if the selection committee believes that it has sufficient information based upon its review of the Proposals without presentations, the selection committee will recommend an Offeror to the MCEC Board of Directors for approval. The selection committee's recommendation, and any final Board approval, will be based upon the determination of the selection committee and the Board, in their sole judgment, as to which Proposal would provide MCEC with the most advantageous and comprehensive combination of technical expertise, reputation, and price, while also assessing the minority business enterprise goals of MCEC.



SECTION VII. APPENDICES

Appendices

Appendix 1	Bid/Proposal Affidavit
Appendix 2	Form of Contract
Appendix 3	Contract Affidavit
Appendix 4	Schedule of Payments

APPENDIX 1 : BID/PROPOSAL AFFIDAVIT

BID/PROPOSAL AFFIDAVIT

A. AUTHORITY

I hereby affirm that I, _____ (name of affiant) am the _____ (title) and duly authorized representative of _____ (name of business entity) and that I possess the legal authority to make this affidavit on behalf of the business for which I am acting.

B. CERTIFICATION REGARDING COMMERCIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that the following information is correct: In preparing its Bid/Proposal on this project, the Bidder/Offeror has considered all Proposals submitted from qualified, potential subcontractors and suppliers, and has not engaged in "discrimination" as defined in § 19-103 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. "Discrimination" means any disadvantage, difference, distinction, or preference in the solicitation, selection, hiring, or commercial treatment of a vendor, subcontractor, or commercial customer on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or on the basis of disability or any otherwise unlawful use of characteristics regarding the vendor's, supplier's, or commercial customer's employees or owners. "Discrimination" also includes retaliating against any person or other entity for reporting any incident of "discrimination". Without limiting any other provision of the solicitation on this project, it is understood that, if the certification is false, such false certification constitutes grounds for the State to reject the Bid/Proposal submitted by the Bidder/Offeror on this project, and terminate any contract awarded based on the Bid/Proposal. As part of its Bid/Proposal, the Bidder/Offeror herewith submits a list of all instances within the past 4 years where there has been a final adjudicated determination in a legal or administrative proceeding in the State of Maryland that the Bidder/Offeror discriminated against subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, or commercial customers, and a description of the status or resolution of that determination, including any remedial action taken. Bidder/Offeror agrees to comply in all respects with the State's Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy as described under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

B-1. CERTIFICATION REGARDING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that it has fully complied with the State Minority Business Enterprise Law, State Finance and Procurement Article, § 14-308(a)(2), Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that, except as otherwise provided by law, a contractor may not identify a certified minority business enterprise in a Bid/Proposal and:

- (1) Fail to request, receive, or otherwise obtain authorization from the certified minority business enterprise to identify the certified minority Proposal;
- (2) Fail to notify the certified minority business enterprise before execution of the contract of its inclusion in the Bid/Proposal;
- (3) Fail to use the certified minority business enterprise in the performance of the contract; or
- (4) Pay the certified minority business enterprise solely for the use of its name in the Bid/Proposal.

Without limiting any other provision of the solicitation on this project, it is understood that if the certification is false, such false certification constitutes grounds for the State to reject the Bid/Proposal

submitted by the Bidder/Offeror on this project, and terminate any contract awarded based on the Bid/Proposal.

B-2. CERTIFICATION REGARDING VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that it has fully complied with the State veteran-owned small business enterprise law, State Finance and Procurement Article, § 14-605, Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that a person may not:

- (1) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently obtain, attempt to obtain, or aid another person in fraudulently obtaining or attempting to obtain public money, procurement contracts, or funds expended under a procurement contract to which the person is not entitled under this title;
- (2) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently represent participation of a veteran-owned small business enterprise in order to obtain or retain a Bid/Proposal preference or a procurement contract;
- (3) Willfully and knowingly make or subscribe to any statement, declaration, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, whether or not that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document;
- (4) Willfully and knowingly aid, assist in, procure, counsel, or advise the preparation or presentation of a declaration, statement, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, regardless of whether that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document;
- (5) Willfully and knowingly fail to file any declaration or notice with the unit that is required by COMAR 21.11.12; or
- (6) Establish, knowingly aid in the establishment of, or exercise control over a business found to have violated a provision of § B-2(1)-(5) of this regulation.

C. AFFIRMATION REGARDING BRIBERY CONVICTIONS

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business (as is defined in Section 16-101(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland), or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies has been convicted of, or has had probation before judgment imposed pursuant to Criminal Procedure Article, § 6-220, Annotated Code of Maryland, or has pleaded nolo contendere to a charge of, bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe in violation of Maryland law, or of the law of any other state or federal law, except as follows (indicate the reasons why the affirmation cannot be given and list any conviction, plea, or imposition of probation before judgment with the date, court, official or administrative body, the sentence or disposition, the name(s) of person(s) involved, and their current positions and responsibilities with the business):

D. AFFIRMATION REGARDING OTHER CONVICTIONS

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies, has:

(1) Been convicted under state or federal statute of:

(a) A criminal offense incident to obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public or private contract; or

(b) Fraud, embezzlement, theft, forgery, falsification or destruction of records or receiving stolen property;

(2) Been convicted of any criminal violation of a state or federal antitrust statute;

(3) Been convicted under the provisions of Title 18 of the United States Code for violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1961 et seq., or the Mail Fraud Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1341 et seq., for acts in connection with the submission of Bids/Proposals for a public or private contract;

(4) Been convicted of a violation of the State Minority Business Enterprise Law, § 14-308 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;

(5) Been convicted of a violation of § 11-205.1 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;

(6) Been convicted of conspiracy to commit any act or omission that would constitute grounds for conviction or liability under any law or statute described in subsections (1)—(5) above;

(7) Been found civilly liable under a state or federal antitrust statute for acts or omissions in connection with the submission of Bids/Proposals for a public or private contract;

(8) Been found in a final adjudicated decision to have violated the Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland with regard to a public or private contract;

(9) Been convicted of a violation of one or more of the following provisions of the Internal Revenue Code:

(a) §7201, Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax;

(b) §7203, Willful Failure to File Return, Supply Information, or Pay Tax,

(c) §7205, Fraudulent Withholding Exemption Certificate or Failure to Supply Information,

(d) §7205, Fraud and False Statements, or

(e) §7207, Fraudulent Returns, Statements, or Other Documents;

(10) Been convicted of a violation of 18 U.S.C. §286, Conspiracy to Defraud the Government with Respect to Claims, 18 U.S.C. §287, False, Fictitious, or Fraudulent Claims, or 18 U.S.C. §371, Conspiracy to Defraud the United States;

(11) Been convicted of a violation of the Tax-General Article, Title 13, Subtitle 7 or Subtitle 10, Annotated Code of Maryland;

(12) Been found to have willfully or knowingly violated State Prevailing Wage Laws as provided in the State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 17, Subtitle 2, Annotated Code of Maryland, if:

(a) A court:

(i) Made the finding; and

(ii) Decision became final; or

(b) The finding was:

(i) Made in a contested case under the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act; and

(ii) Not overturned on judicial review;

(13) Been found to have willfully or knowingly violated State Living Wage Laws as provided in the State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18, Annotated Code of Maryland, if:

(a) A court:

(i) Made the finding; and

(ii) Decision became final; or

(b) The finding was:

(i) Made in a contested case under the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act; and

(ii) Not overturned on judicial review;

(14) Been found to have willfully or knowingly violated the Labor and Employment Article, Title 3, Subtitles 3, 4, or 5, or Title 5, Annotated Code of Maryland, if:

(a) A court:

(i) Made the finding; and

(ii) Decision became final; or

(b) The finding was:

(i) Made in a contested case under the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act; and

(ii) Not overturned on judicial review; or

(15) Admitted in writing or under oath, during the course of an official investigation or other proceedings, acts or omissions that would constitute grounds for conviction or liability under any law or statute described in §§ B and C and subsections D(1)—(14) above, except as follows (indicate reasons why the affirmations cannot be given, and list any conviction, plea, or imposition of probation before judgment with the date, court, official or administrative body, the sentence or disposition, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and their current positions and responsibilities with the business, and the status of any debarment):

E. AFFIRMATION REGARDING DEBARMENT

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities, including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies, has ever been suspended or debarred (including being issued a limited denial of participation) by any public entity, except as follows (list each debarment or suspension providing the dates of the suspension or debarment, the name of the public entity and the status of the proceedings, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and their current positions and responsibilities with the business, the grounds of the debarment or suspension, and the details of each person's involvement in any activity that formed the grounds of the debarment or suspension).

F. AFFIRMATION REGARDING DEBARMENT OF RELATED ENTITIES

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

(1) The business was not established and it does not operate in a manner designed to evade the application of or defeat the purpose of debarment pursuant to Sections 16-101, et seq., of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; and

(2) The business is not a successor, assignee, subsidiary, or affiliate of a suspended or debarred business, except as follows (you must indicate the reasons why the affirmations cannot be given without qualification):

G. SUBCONTRACT AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, has knowingly entered into a contract with a public body under which a person debarred or suspended under Title 16 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland will provide, directly or indirectly, supplies, services, architectural services, construction related services, leases of real property, or construction.

H. AFFIRMATION REGARDING COLLUSION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business has:

(1) Agreed, conspired, connived, or colluded to produce a deceptive show of competition in the compilation of the accompanying Bid/Proposal that is being submitted;

(2) In any manner, directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement of any kind to fix the Bid/Proposal price of the Bidder/Offeror or of any competitor, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with the contract for which the accompanying Bid/Proposal is submitted.

I. CERTIFICATION OF TAX PAYMENT

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Except as validly contested, the business has paid, or has arranged for payment of, all taxes due the State of Maryland and has filed all required returns and reports with the Comptroller of the Treasury, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, as applicable, and will have paid all withholding taxes due the State of Maryland prior to final settlement.

J. CONTINGENT FEES

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

The business has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency working for the business, to solicit or secure the Contract, and that the business has not paid or agreed to pay any person,

partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency, any fee or any other consideration contingent on the making of the Contract.

K. CERTIFICATION REGARDING INVESTMENTS IN IRAN

(1) The undersigned certifies that, in accordance with State Finance and Procurement Article, §17-705, Annotated Code of Maryland:

(a) It is not identified on the list created by the Board of Public Works as a person engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in State Finance and Procurement Article, §17-702, Annotated Code of Maryland; and

(b) It is not engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in State Finance and Procurement Article, §17-702, Annotated Code of Maryland.

2. The undersigned is unable to make the above certification regarding its investment activities in Iran due to the following activities: _____

L. CONFLICT MINERALS ORIGINATED IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (FOR SUPPLIES AND SERVICES CONTRACTS)

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

The business has complied with the provisions of State Finance and Procurement Article, §14-413, Annotated Code of Maryland governing proper disclosure of certain information regarding conflict minerals originating in the Democratic Republic of Congo or its neighboring countries as required by federal law.

M. I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Any claims of environmental attributes made relating to a product or service included in the Bid or Proposal are consistent with the Federal Trade Commission's Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims as provided in 16 CFR §260, that apply to claims about the environmental attributes of a product, package, or service in connection with the marketing, offering for sale, or sale of such item or service.

N. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT this Affidavit is to be furnished to the Procurement Officer and may be distributed to units of: (1) the State of Maryland; (2) counties or other subdivisions of the State of Maryland; (3) other states; and (4) the federal government. I further acknowledge that this Affidavit is subject to applicable laws of the United States and the State of Maryland, both criminal and civil, and that nothing in this Affidavit or any contract resulting from the submission of this Bid/Proposal shall be construed to supersede, amend, modify or waive, on behalf of the State of Maryland, or any unit of the State of Maryland having jurisdiction, the exercise of any statutory right or remedy conferred by the Constitution and the laws of Maryland with respect to any misrepresentation made or any violation of the obligations, terms and covenants undertaken by the above business with respect to (1) this Affidavit, (2) the contract, and (3) other Affidavits comprising part of the contract.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: _____

By: _____ (print name of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

_____ (signature of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

APPENDIX 2 : MCEC FORM OF CONTRACT

PROCUREMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN MARYLAND CLEAN ENERGY CENTER AND

THIS AGREEMENT (this “Agreement”), is made as of the _____ day of _____, 202_, between the **MARYLAND CLEAN ENERGY CENTER** (“MCEC”), a body politic and corporate and a public instrumentality of the State of Maryland, whose address 5000 College Avenue, Suite 31010, College Park, MD 20740, and _____ (“Contractor”), whose _____ address _____ is _____ and whose FEIN is _____.

MCEC and Contractor do mutually agree as follows:

1. Services to be Provided.

(a) MCEC shall purchase Contractor’s services, and Contractor shall _____, in accordance with Contractor’s Proposal dated _____, 202_) (the “Proposal”), attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein, to the extent that the Proposal is consistent with this Agreement.

(b) MCEC retains the unilateral right to require changes in the services to be rendered, so long as the changes are within the general scope of work to be performed hereunder.

2. Change Order.

(a) MCEC may, at any time, by specific written order (“Change Order”), make changes in the work within the general scope of this Agreement. A Change Order form is included as Exhibit C for reference.

(b) No other statement beyond the Change Order or conduct of MCEC or any person shall be treated as a change or entitle Contractor to an equitable adjustment under this section.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, if any change under this section causes an increase or decrease in Contractor’s cost of, or the time required for, the performance of any part of the work, whether or not changed by the Change Order, an equitable adjustment in the Contract Price shall be made and the Agreement shall be modified in writing accordingly.

(d) Contractor must assert in writing its right to an adjustment under this section within thirty (30) days of receipt of written Change Order and shall include a written statement setting forth the nature and cost of such claim. No claim by Contractor shall be allowed if asserted after final payment of the Contract Price for a Project. Failure to agree to an adjustment under this section shall be a dispute under the Disputes clause.

Nothing in this section shall excuse Contractor from proceeding with the services as changed.

3. Term of Agreement. Performance under this Agreement commences on _____, 202_, and continues until agreed upon services are completed, but in any case, no later than _____, 202_.

4. Compensation and Method of Payment.

(a) Compensation. MCEC shall compensate Contractor for services satisfactorily performed at the rates set forth in Exhibit A. The total cost to MCEC for the services to be provided by Contractor under this Agreement may not exceed _____ (\$_____).

(b) Method of Payment. MCEC shall pay Contractor no later than thirty days after MCEC receives a proper invoice from Contractor, which invoices shall be tendered at monthly intervals. Charges for late payment of invoices, other than as prescribed by Title 15, Subtitle 1, State Finance and Procurement Article, Maryland Code, are prohibited.

5. Contract Officer. MCEC designates _____ to serve as Contract Officer for this Agreement. All contact between MCEC and Contractor regarding all matters relative to this Agreement shall be coordinated through the Contract Officer.

6. Notices. All notices under this Agreement shall be in writing and either delivered personally, sent by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, or sent by overnight delivery with an overnight delivery service (i.e. UPS, federal express), and shall be effective upon receipt or refusal to accept delivery as follows:

If to MCEC:

Maryland Clean Energy Center
5000 College Avenue, Suite 31010
College Park, MD 20740
Attention: Executive Director

If to Contractor:

7. Responsibility of Contractor. Contractor shall perform the services with that standard of care, skill, and diligence normally provided in the performance of similar services.

8. Independent Contractor Status. The Contractor shall perform all services under this Agreement as an "independent contractor" and not as an employee or agent of MCEC. Contractor will not be entitled to any benefits or compensation from MCEC, except as set forth in this Agreement. Contractor agrees that it is responsible for the direct payment of any federal or state taxes on the compensation paid to him under this Agreement. Contractor is not authorized to assume or create any obligation or responsibility, express or implied, on behalf of, or in the name of, MCEC, sign any agreements related to MCEC, or to bind MCEC in any manner, without express written consent of MCEC. MCEC understands and agrees that this Agreement is non-exclusive and that consistent with its independent contractor status, Contractor is free to contract with other persons and entities without restriction. During the term of this

Agreement, Contractor will disclose to MCEC all financial relationships with persons or entities that Contractor has met in connection with its activities under this Agreement. Disclosure shall be made within 5 days of the execution of an agreement formalizing a financial relationship between Contractor and a person or entity.

8. Disputes. This Agreement shall be deemed subject to Title 15, Subtitle 2 (Dispute Resolution), State Finance and Procurement Article, Maryland Code and to COMAR 21.10 (Administrative and Civil Remedies). Pending resolution of a claim, Contractor must proceed diligently with the performance of the Agreement in accordance with the Contract Officer's decision. Unless a lesser period is provided by law, Contractor must file a written notice of claim with the Contract Officer within thirty days after the basis for the claim is known or should have been known, whichever is earlier. Contemporaneously with or within thirty days of the filing of a notice of claim, but no later than the date of final payment under the Agreement, Contractor must submit to the Contract Officer its written claim containing the information specified in COMAR 21.10.04.02.

9. Termination for Convenience. MCEC may terminate the performance of work under this Agreement in whole, or, from time to time, in part, whenever MCEC determines that such termination is in the best interest of MCEC. MCEC shall pay all reasonable costs associated with this Agreement that Contractor has incurred up to the date of termination and all reasonable costs associated with termination of the Agreement. MCEC may not reimburse Contractor for any anticipatory profits that have not been earned up to the date of termination.

10. Termination for Default. If Contractor fails to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement properly and on time, or otherwise violates any provision of the Agreement, MCEC may terminate the Agreement by written notice to Contractor. The notice must specify the acts or omissions relied on as cause for termination. All finished or unfinished supplies and services provided by Contractor shall, at MCEC's option, become MCEC's property.

11. Set-Off, Etc. MCEC may deduct from and set off against any amounts due and payable to Contractor any back-charges, penalties, or damages sustained by MCEC, by virtue of any breach of this Agreement by Contractor. Nothing herein shall be construed to relieve Contractor of any liability for additional costs resulting from a failure to satisfactorily perform the services. Upon receipt and acceptance of the final payment due under this Agreement in accordance with its original terms or with an early termination by MCEC, the Contractor waives any and all rights or claims arising under this Agreement, unless otherwise agreed in writing by MCEC.

12. Contingent Upon Funds. If MCEC does not have funds available for continued performance for any period of this Agreement, this Agreement must be canceled automatically as of the beginning of the period for which funds were not available. Cancellation does not affect either MCEC's rights or Contractor's rights under any termination clause in this Agreement. The effect of cancellation of the Agreement hereunder will be to discharge both Contractor and MCEC from future performance of the Agreement, but not from their rights and obligations existing at the time of termination. MCEC shall reimburse Contractor for the reasonable value of any nonrecurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the Agreement. MCEC shall notify Contractor as soon as it has knowledge that funds may not be available for the continuation of this Agreement.

13. Dissemination of Information. Contractor shall not release any information related to the services or performance of the services under this Agreement, nor publish any final reports or documents, without the prior written approval of MCEC, or unless such release is otherwise required by law or reasonably necessary to be disclosed in judicial proceedings. Contractor shall treat all information

obtained by, or on behalf of, MCEC in connection with services performed under this Agreement as confidential and shall not disclose such information except as required by law.

14. Ownership of Documents, Equipment, and Materials. (a) Ownership. Contractor agrees and shall ensure that all documents, equipment, and materials including but not limited to reports, drawings, studies, specifications, estimates, maps, software, photographs, designs, graphics, mechanicals, artwork, and computations prepared by or for, or purchased by or for, Contractor in connection with the performance of this Agreement shall at any time during the term of this Agreement be available to MCEC and shall become and remain the exclusive property of MCEC upon termination or completion of the services. MCEC shall have the right to use same without restriction and without compensation to Contractor or others other than that provided in this Agreement. MCEC shall be the owner for purposes of copyright, patent or trademark registration, and Contractor hereby transfers to MCEC any rights it may have in the work produced pursuant to this Agreement. Contractor agrees that at all times during the term of this Agreement and thereafter, the works created and services performed shall be “works made for hire” as that term is interpreted under copyright law. To the extent that any products created under this Agreement are not MCEC works for hire, Contractor hereby transfers and assigns to MCEC all of its rights, title and interest (including all intellectual property rights) to all such products created under this Agreement, and will cooperate reasonably with MCEC in effectuating and registering any necessary assignments. (b) Third party: Indemnification. If Contractor obtains or uses for purposes of this Agreement any design, device, material, process, or work covered by patent, copyright, or trademark, Contractor shall ensure MCEC that it is licensed to possess and to use such design, device, material, process, or work. Contractor shall indemnify MCEC, its officials, agents and employees with respect to any claim, action, cost or judgment for patent, trademark or copyright infringement by Contractor arising out of the possession or use of any design, device, material, process, supplies, equipment, services or other work covered by this Agreement.

15. Retention of Records. Contractor shall retain and maintain all records and documents relating to this Agreement for three years after final payment by MCEC hereunder or any applicable statute of limitations, whichever is longer. Contractor shall make such records and documents available for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of MCEC, including the Contract Officer or designees, at all reasonable times.

16. Responsibility for Claims and Liability. MCEC is not liable in any action of tort, contract, or otherwise for any actions of Contractor arising out of this Agreement. Contractor shall be responsible for all damage to life and property due to its activities or those of its agents or employees. Contractor shall indemnify and absolve MCEC, the State, their officials, agents, and employees from and against all claims, suits, judgments, expenses, actions, damages and costs of every name and description, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from the goods provided or Contractor's performance of services under this Agreement.

17. Compliance with Laws. Contractor hereby represents and warrants that:

(a) It is qualified to do business in the State of Maryland and that it will take such action as, from time to time, may be necessary to remain so qualified;

(b) It is not in arrears with respect to the payment of any monies due and owing the State of Maryland, or any department or unit thereof, including, but not limited to, the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall not become so in arrears during the term of this Agreement;

(c) It shall comply with all federal, State, and local laws applicable to its activities and obligations under this Agreement; and

(d) It shall obtain, at its expense, all licenses, permits, insurance, and governmental approvals, if any, necessary to the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

18. Non-Discrimination in Employment. Contractor shall operate under this Agreement so that no person, otherwise qualified, is denied employment or other benefits on the basis of: (a) race, color, creed, national origin, or marital status; (b) sex or age, except when sex or age constitutes a bona fide occupational qualification; or (c) the physical or mental disability of a qualified individual with a disability. Except in subcontracts for standard commercial supplies or raw materials, Contractor shall include a clause similar to this clause in all subcontracts. Contractor shall provide actual notice of the foregoing to employees and applicants for employment.

19. Subcontracting; Assignment. Contractor may not, during the term of this Agreement or any renewals or extensions of the Agreement, assign any of its rights hereunder nor delegate or subcontract all or any part of its duties hereunder without the prior written approval of the Contract Officer. Any approved subcontract or assignment is subject to all terms and conditions that MCEC deems necessary. MCEC is not responsible for Contractor's obligations to its subcontractors.

20. Insurance: Contractor shall maintain at all times during the performance of this Agreement, a commercial general liability insurance policy with a minimum occurrence coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000; an automobile liability insurance policy in the minimum amount of \$500,000; a professional liability insurance policy to cover errors, acts of omission by the vendor, its agents and representations in the performance of its obligations herein, in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence; and workers' compensations insurance for employees in the State. All insurance policies shall:

(a) Provide that the insurance carrier shall not cancel, terminate or otherwise modify the terms and conditions of said policies except upon thirty (30) days written notice to MCEC;

(b) Be evidenced by the original Certificate of Insurance, specifying the required coverage and the insurance carrier's standard additional insured form endorsement, which shall be updated as necessary; and

(c) Be approved as to form and sufficiency by MCEC.

If the commercial general liability insurance referred to above is written on a Claims Made Form then, following termination of this Agreement, coverage shall survive for a period of not less than five years. Coverage shall also provide for a retroactive date of placement coinciding with the effective date of this Agreement.

21. Agreement Modification. Except as provided in section 1(b) above, this Agreement may be amended only as MCEC and Contractor mutually agree in writing. Except for the specific provision of the Agreement which is amended, the Agreement remains in full force and effect after such amendment and is subject to the same laws, obligations, conditions, provisions, rules, and regulations, as it was before the amendment.

22. Maryland Law. This Agreement shall be construed, interpreted, and enforced according to the laws of the State of Maryland.

23. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, together with any Exhibits incorporated by reference, represents the complete and final understanding of the parties. No other understanding or

representations, oral or written, regarding the subject matter of this Agreement, may be deemed to exist or to bind the parties at the time of execution.

The contract between the parties will be embodied in the contract documents which will consist of the following, listed in their order of precedence:

1. The contract and contract modifications executed by both parties;
2. Scope of Work

Modifications of the order of precedence provision of this solicitation will not be accepted. If any terms and conditions inconsistent with requirements of the solicitation are proposed, those terms and conditions must be stated in the proposal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on or before the date first set forth herein.

WITNESS/ATTEST:

CONTRACTOR:

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

WITNESS:

MARYLAND CLEAN ENERGY CENTER:

By: _____
Name: I. Katherine Magruder
Title: Executive Director

Attachment: Exhibit A: Contractor's Proposal
Exhibit B: Contract Affidavit
Exhibit C: Change Order Template

APPENDIX 3 : MCEC CONTRACT AFFIDAVIT

CONTRACT AFFIDAVIT

A. AUTHORITY

I hereby affirm that I, _____ (name of affiant) am the _____ (title) and duly authorized representative of _____ (name of business entity) and that I possess the legal authority to make this affidavit on behalf of the business for which I am acting.

B. CERTIFICATION OF REGISTRATION OR QUALIFICATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

The business named above is a (check applicable box):

- (1) Corporation — domestic or foreign;
- (2) Limited Liability Company — domestic or foreign;
- (3) Partnership — domestic or foreign;
- (4) Statutory Trust — domestic or foreign;
- (5) Sole Proprietorship.

and is registered or qualified as required under Maryland Law. I further affirm that the above business is in good standing both in Maryland and (IF APPLICABLE) in the jurisdiction where it is presently organized, and has filed all of its annual reports, together with filing fees, with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation. The name and address of its resident agent (IF APPLICABLE) filed with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation is:

Name _____ and _____ Department _____ ID
Number: _____ Address: _____

and that if it does business under a trade name, it has filed a certificate with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation that correctly identifies that true name and address of the principal or owner as:

Name _____ and _____ Department _____ ID
Number: _____ Address: _____

C. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

I am aware of, and the above business will comply with, the provisions of State Finance and Procurement Article, §13-221, Annotated Code of Maryland, which require that every business that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland or its agencies during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate \$100,000 or more shall, within 30 days of the time when the aggregate value of the contracts, leases, or other agreements reaches \$100,000, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

D. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

I am aware of, and the above business will comply with, Election Law Article, Title 14, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every person that enters into a contract for a procurement with the State, a county, or a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, during a calendar year in which the person receives a contract with a governmental entity in the amount of \$200,000 or more, shall file with the State Board of Elections statements disclosing: (a) any contributions made during the reporting period to a candidate for elective office in any primary or general election; and (b) the name of each candidate to whom one or more contributions in a cumulative amount of \$500 or more were made during the reporting period. The statement shall be filed with the State Board of Elections: (a) before execution of a contract by the State, a county, a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, and shall cover the 24 months prior to when a contract was awarded; and (b) if the contribution is made after the execution of a contract, then twice a year, throughout the contract term, on or before: (i) May 31, to cover the six (6) month period ending April 30; and (ii) November 30, to cover the six (6) month period ending October 31.

E. DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE WORKPLACE

(Applicable to all contracts unless the contract is for a law enforcement agency and the agency head or the agency head's designee has determined that application of COMAR 21.11.08 and this certification would be inappropriate in connection with the law enforcement agency's undercover operations.)

I CERTIFY THAT:

- (1) Terms defined in COMAR 21.11.08 shall have the same meanings when used in this certification.
- (2) By submission of its Proposal, the business, if other than an individual, certifies and agrees that, with respect to its employees to be employed under a contract resulting from this solicitation, the business shall:
 - (a) Maintain a workplace free of drug and alcohol abuse during the term of the contract;
 - (b) Publish a statement notifying its employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of drugs, and the abuse of drugs or alcohol is prohibited in the business' workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of these prohibitions;
 - (c) Prohibit its employees from working under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
 - (d) Not hire or assign to work on the contract anyone who the business knows, or in the exercise of due diligence should know, currently abuses drugs or alcohol and is not actively engaged in a bona fide drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program;
 - (e) Promptly inform the appropriate law enforcement agency of every drug-related crime that occurs in its workplace if the business has observed the violation or otherwise has reliable information that a violation has occurred;
 - (f) Establish drug and alcohol abuse awareness programs to inform its employees about:
 - (i) The dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace;

- (ii) The business's policy of maintaining a drug and alcohol free workplace;
- (iii) Any available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
- (iv) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees who abuse drugs and alcohol in the workplace;

(g) Provide all employees engaged in the performance of the contract with a copy of the statement required by §E(2)(b), above;

(h) Notify its employees in the statement required by §E(2)(b), above, that as a condition of continued employment on the contract, the employee shall:

- (i) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
- (ii) Notify the employer of any criminal drug or alcohol abuse conviction for an offense occurring in the workplace not later than 5 days after a conviction;

(i) Notify the procurement officer within 10 days after receiving notice under §E(2)(h)(ii), above, or otherwise receiving actual notice of a conviction;

(j) Within 30 days after receiving notice under §E(2)(h)(ii), above, or otherwise receiving actual notice of a conviction, impose either of the following sanctions or remedial measures on any employee who is convicted of a drug or alcohol abuse offense occurring in the workplace:

- (i) Take appropriate personnel action against an employee, up to and including termination; or
- (ii) Require an employee to satisfactorily participate in a bona fide drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program; and

(k) Make a good faith effort to maintain a drug and alcohol free workplace through implementation of §E(2)(a)—(j), above.

(3) If the business is an individual, the individual shall certify and agree as set forth in §E(4), below, that the individual shall not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of drugs or the abuse of drugs or alcohol in the performance of the contract.

(4) I acknowledge and agree that:

- (a) The award of the contract is conditional upon compliance with COMAR 21.11.08 and this certification;

(b) The violation of the provisions of COMAR 21.11.08 or this certification shall be cause to suspend payments under, or terminate the contract for default under COMAR 21.07.01.11 or 21.07.03.15, as applicable; and

(c) The violation of the provisions of COMAR 21.11.08 or this certification in connection with the contract may, in the exercise of the discretion of the Board of Public Works, result in suspension and debarment of the business under COMAR 21.08.03.

F. CERTAIN AFFIRMATIONS VALID

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, each of the affirmations, certifications, or acknowledgements contained in that certain Proposal Affidavit dated _____, 202____, and executed by me for the purpose of obtaining the contract to which this Exhibit is attached remains true and correct in all respects as if made as of the date of this Contract Affidavit and as if fully set forth herein.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: _____

By: _____ (printed name of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

_____ (signature of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

- a. **Onboarding/beginning of project**
 - i. **Budget:** \$15,000
- b. **~~March~~April, after update 2**
 - i. **Budget:** \$10,000
 - ii. **Deliverables:** Summary of methods and metrics:
 - 1. Number of Counties
 - 2. Measurement of environmental impacts of biomass utilization
 - 3. Measurements of economic impacts of biomass utilization.
- c. **~~May~~July/~~August~~, after update 3**
 - i. **Budget:** \$10,000
 - ii. **Deliverables:** Report containing detailed data on the effects of increased utilization, including:
 - 1. Environmental and economic impacts
 - 2. Incremental analyses separated by duration and level of increase.
- d. **~~June~~September, after update 4**
 - i. **Budget:** \$10,000
 - ii. **Deliverables:**
 - 1. Policy recommendations that would facilitate a level of biomass utilization supported by the data from update 3
 - 2. An examination of the environmental justice (EJ) effects of increased biomass utilization
 - 3. A draft copy of complete analysis sent to the State Wood Energy Team (SWE Team) for review.
- e. **~~July~~December, after update 6**
 - i. **Budget:** \$18,000
 - ii. **Deliverables:**
 - 1. Completion of recommended edits following the meeting conducted after update 4
 - 2. Presentation of finalized document to the SWE team.
- f. **Total Not to Exceed Cost:** \$63,000