



Planning and Energy Resources Division  
Responses to RFP Questions

Market Characterization and Assessment Study

Business and Residential Sector RFP's:

Date Posted: Jan. 19, 2011

RFP's Due: Jan. 25, 2011

**Residential and Business Sector  
Market Characterization and Assessment  
RFP Questions**

1. In 2010, how many single-family homes, multi-family projects, and multifamily housing units participated in the Efficiency Vermont Energy Star new homes program?
  - a. *2010 completion rates for the VESH new construction service were: 334 single family homes (of which 281 successfully met ENERGY STAR criteria) and 19 multifamily buildings containing a total of 419 units.*
  
2. In 2010, how many single-family homes, multi-family projects, and multifamily housing units participated in the Efficiency Vermont Home Performance with Energy Star program?
  - a. *In 2010, 595 single family homes (1-4 units) completed comprehensive energy efficiency improvements through the HPwES service. Efficiency Vermont launched the Building Performance service in mid-2010 extending the HPwES model to multifamily (4+ unit) and small commercial buildings, but did not have any multifamily completions in 2010.*
  
3. How do you define “major renovation” projects? The RFP mentions gut rehabs and major additions. What is the minimum square footage to qualify as a major addition?
  - a. *The Department recognizes major renovations, gut rehabs and additions as a market that is important to characterize. The Department seeks proposals that further define this market and propose methods for sampling the population. Proposals should include a minimum percent square footage of total dwelling to qualify as a major renovation. Proposals should also include a minimum percent additional square footage of total dwelling to qualify as a major addition.*
  
4. Do you envision a separate sample of major renovation projects, or treat them simply as observations within the new construction study?
  - a. *The Department would like to characterize this market cost effectively and with reasonable confidence. Proposals should discuss the pros and cons of developing a separate sample vs. treating them as observations within the residential sample. A discussion of budgetary impacts is also expected.*
  
5. What data sources in Vermont are available to identify major renovation projects? Are permits required?
  - a. *The Department is not aware of an independent one-stop resource that tracks major renovations in Vermont. Proposals should discuss possible sources for obtaining this information and appropriate sampling methods.*
  
6. What homes does the new RBES code apply to – those receiving building permits after January 1, 2011?
  - a. *The new residential building energy code has not yet been adopted in Vermont. The Department is currently finalizing the code and plans to submit a final draft to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) soon. If the*

*Committee adopts the rule it cannot become effective sooner than 15 days after adoption. The LCAR could also specify an effective date.*

7. Given the RBES code upgrade in January 2011, would you like to assess code compliance with the old code, the new code, or a mix?
  - a. *The Department would like to assess code compliance and is interested in characterizing the mix of new and existing buildings that meet new and old code. Plus, market drivers for either new or existing buildings that exceed new code.*
8. Will the Vt Utilities supply us with customer data-names, addresses, telephone numbers, monthly kwh usage for a recent 12 month period?
  - a. *Yes.*
9. Are you looking for a footprint of the State carbon production for electricity? Electricity and Fossil Fuel?
  - a. *No.*
10. With respect to audits, we intend to do leakage (blower door), appliance, lighting and heating analyses. Does the Department expect the selected contractor to prepare breakeven or payback analyses?
  - a. *The Department does not expect breakeven or payback analyses for either sector.*
11. How much detail is required for the budget?
  - a. *Respondents should clearly outline budgets for each of the evaluation tasks and sub-tasks and for the total project, including project management, kick off meeting, database management, and reporting. Hourly rates should be clearly identified, and should remain the same for the duration of the contract. Task, sub-task, and total project budget including a listing of all staff assigned to the project, including project manager, staff time allocations and billing rates are required.*
12. How would you like the results presented?
  - a. *In terms of a final report, the Department expects respondents to provide a written analysis along with all data provided in a searchable format. Final reports should be comprehensive. The Department expects proposals will be an indication of the likely appearance of deliverables and final report from the bidder.*
13. Are there any Vt. smart grid projects currently operating or planned for the future that are factored into the Vt. energy efficiency planning models?
  - a. *Vermont utilities have committed to have smart meters at nearly every customer account in the state within the next few years. However, this study is not intended to forecast energy savings from any current or future smart grid projects. Discussion of smart grid potential for generating energy savings in the future is*

*not expected. If discussed, bidders should plan to address smart grid under Task 3, Missed Opportunities and Remaining Potential.*

14. Does the DPS have minimum confidence and precision levels anticipated for the study overall, or for just certain components of the sub-area analysis?
  - a. *The Department would like the highest level of confidence and precision that the budget can support. Some discussion of the method used to achieve confidence levels and associated budget impacts are expected.*
  
15. Task 3, includes natural gas specifically. Should the vendor plan to provide a review of other missed opportunities/remaining potential beyond electricity and natural gas, for example, fuel oil, propane, etc.
  - a. *Yes, Task 3 asks bidders to discuss missed opportunities and remaining efficiency potential in the markets being served by EEU's. To the degree possible, heating and process fuels should be addressed on a state-wide level.*
  
16. Can the DPS clarify further the restrictions on bidder eligibility with respect to “General Requirements”, Item 3 “Consultants must not be currently employed by Efficiency Vermont...”. For example, could a firm/individual, who is a subcontractor to Efficiency Vermont, and a subcontractor to the prime contractor responding to this RFP, be eligible to work on this project?
  - a. *This language is intended to restrict current Energy Efficiency Utility (EEU) employees and partner firms from bidding. Energy consultant(s), firms and sub-contractors working with Vermont EEU's (Efficiency Vermont, the Burlington Electric Department or natural gas EEU) are free to participate in the bidding process for these RFP's. Energy consultant(s), firms and sub-contractors currently under contract with any EEU's must disclose the nature of current contract(s) in their proposal and be deemed free from conflict of interest by the Department of Public Service to be eligible. Energy consultant(s), firms and sub-contractors must agree not to undertake additional contracts with EEU's during the project term without first being deemed free from conflict of interest by the Department of Public Service.*
  
17. Task 5- GeoTargeting (GT). The RFP states that for this task the DPS seeks “relevant differences in business building stock baselines”. Should vendors interpret this to be a review of both business new construction and existing business facilities, or just a review of existing business facilities?
  - a. *The study aims to characterize the GT areas in order to compare them to each other individually and compare them as a group to the rest of the state. Vendors should interpret “relevant differences in business building stock baselines” as establishing a baseline for each GT area so that GT baselines can be compared to each other and to the rest of the state.*