



CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

GEOTHERMAL ASSESMENTS FOR CT FARM ENERGY GEOTHERMAL PILOT PROJECT

June 11, 2018

Introduction

Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development seeks to select a geothermal professional consultant that meets qualifications to perform geothermal assessments and reports for CT farms and/or agriculture based rural businesses during a two-year period of a new farm energy geothermal pilot project.

Background

Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (CT RC&D) is a 501(c)(3) statewide organization that fosters grassroots projects for sustainable growth in Connecticut. CT RC&D cultivates innovative partnerships and programs to promote agriculture, conservation, economic growth, and healthy food systems that make significant impacts to Connecticut communities, farmers, government, and conservation partners.

For nearly five decades CT RC&D has served Connecticut through partnerships, projects and programs. Such efforts include: Advocate Program, Connecticut Environmental Review Team Program, CT Farm Energy Program, No-till Cover Crop Pilot, New England Farm Energy Collaborative, Compost Heat Recovery Pilot, CACEE Center Project, Job Jump Start Program, and Soil Health Initiative to name recent work.

The CT Farm Energy Program (CFEP) is managed by CT RC&D with the mission of providing technical assistance to agriculture producers and rural small businesses by increasing awareness about energy conservation and efficiency while promoting alternative and renewable forms of energy on Connecticut Farms. To date CFEP has assisted in the implementation of over 9.6 million dollars in energy projects since 2010.

Through support from USDA Rural Development through a REDA grant, CFEP seeks to implement a new farm energy geothermal pilot project. Currently farmers and rural small businesses in Connecticut pay higher rates for electricity and fuel than their counterparts in other parts of the country. The reduction of energy costs through renewable energy options are vital to keeping New England farms viable. Energy costs inform businesses decisions and can limit farms and small rural businesses from expanding operations, hiring, planning infrastructure development, and making equipment purchases.

There is an opportunity to expand the renewable energy effort in agriculture with funding provided by CT RC&D's USDA Rural Development REDA grant. CT RC&D seeks to implement a two-year pilot project by offering education, outreach, workshops and renewable energy assessments specifically focused on geothermal opportunities for farms and rural small businesses in the state. The goal of this project is to reduce barriers to alternative renewable energy resources. By providing producers and rural small businesses with a free geothermal energy assessment and corresponding report it will allow them to consider other alternative forms of energy for their operations at no obligation to implement. The idea of geothermal is of interest to farms but is often considered confusing, costly or unclear if they have a suitable location. By offering them technical support CT RC&D expects to expand the options for renewable energy projects installed in the state.

Project Deliverables and Objectives

CT RC&D seeks to subcontract with an in-state geothermal professional to perform 18 geothermal assessments during its 2-year farm energy geothermal pilot project with eligible agriculture producers and/or ag focused rural small business operations (as defined by USDA Rural Development per REAP requirements). A report will be created by the selected geothermal professional to include but not limited to: suitability for geothermal installation, system option types, sizing, estimated costs, and anticipated payback to be given to the farm or rural small business for their review and consideration of next steps with no obligation to implement. Additionally, a copy will be given to CT RC&D for tracking and reporting purposes to USDA Rural Development. CT RC&D proposes to provide service statewide, with a specific focused effort of service to eligible agriculture producers and/or agriculturally based rural small businesses. All types of producers that are deemed eligible will be accepted into the geothermal pilot. It is likely though due to the volume of dairy farms and greenhouse/plant nursery operations in the state being largest income producers and largest users of energy that they would be the

predominant applicant group. However, with the increased number of crop producers and specialty product crops on the rise in CT it is likely this grant could service other producers such as farm stores, vineyards, farm breweries, apiaries, Christmas tree farms, meat producers and maple syrup operations to name a few.

CFEP will pre-screen interested parties per USDA Rural Development requirements as either agriculture producers or rural small businesses per the USDA eligibility map. All interested in receiving a geothermal assessment must meet USDA Rural Development eligibility requirements and submit a self-certified intake form as created by CFEP. Once approved CFEP will provide the selected geothermal professional with contact information and approval to complete a geothermal assessment and report for selected applicants. Farms and ag based rural small businesses will be served on a first come first serve basis until all available funds for geothermal assessments have been spent. It is expected that over the two-year period of the pilot project CT RC&D will be able to provide 18 geothermal assessments.

In addition, CT RC&D will host two educational statewide workshops open to all located in Connecticut who operate a farm or agriculture based rural small business and are interested in attending. It is expected that the selected geothermal professional performing the 18 assessments would participate and present at both workshops in conjunction with CFEP staff and other energy partners.

CT RC&D will select a geothermal consultant that meets qualifications to perform the geothermal assessments at farms and/or ag based rural business locations in the month of July 2018. Following that contracts will be signed, and intake forms will be created and circulated by CT RC&D. It is estimated that as soon as September 2018 the geothermal consultant would begin assessments for CT RC&D. In the first 9 months of the contract it is expected that the selected geothermal professional would perform and complete assessments and reports for 6 farms/ag based rural small business operations (September 2018-May 2019). In the second year of the pilot project it is expected that the geothermal professional would perform and complete assessments and reports for 12 additional farms/ag based rural small business operations (June 2019 – April 2020).

CT RC&D also seeks to work in partnership with the CT Geothermal Association to create a farm/ag based geothermal folded hand out to be circulated in order to provide outreach and education. The selected geothermal consultant would be asked to review and provide input to this handout as well.

Qualifications

Those interested in submitting proposals should include their work experience, professional degree, and licenses in relation to geothermal siting suitability, sizing and installation. Also including the number, size and type of geothermal projects the professional has worked on and applicable knowledge in relation to farm operation equipment and/or agriculture rural small businesses with regards to geothermal systems. Those submitting proposals will need to be in compliance with federal requirements such as equal opportunity, debarment, etc. and complete such forms as 1940-Q, 400-6, and AD 1048, where applicable.

Proposal Submission

Individuals and companies are invited to submit proposals for consulting services and should indicate an individual cost per geothermal assessment and report or a collective fee to perform all 18 geothermal assessments and corresponding reports to be performed between September 2018- April 2020. Please indicate in summary what the geothermal assessment and report would specifically include for selected farms/ag based rural small businesses.

In addition, it is anticipated that the selected geothermal professional would participate and present at 2 statewide geothermal/energy workshops hosted by CT RC&D, as well as review and provide input on the education geothermal handout for CT Farms as created by CT RC&D in partnership with the CT Geothermal Association. Please indicate what fee the above mentioned would require, separate from the assessment fee costs.

Those interested in submitting proposals should do so no later than 5:00pm on Friday, July 2, 2018 either by mail to the Connecticut RC&D office, Attn: Amanda Fargo-Johnson, 1066 Saybrook Road, PO Box 70, Haddam, CT 06438 or by email to Amanda@CTFarmEnergy.org. Proposals along with any other supporting documentation to indicate sufficient qualifications should be included. Contact CT RC&D ahead of the deadline with any questions you may have. *CT RC&D is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*