



## **Municipal Solar Projects Best Practices & Policies RFP**

### Background

Since 2018, Tioga County, NY has experienced the development of many solar projects, both large-scale and community distributed generation (CDG), located within the County. To date, 16 projects have gone through local approval processes within seven (of nine) towns, many of which are operational (please see attached map). A few additional solar projects are in the due diligence phase, according to various solar development companies that have approached us (collectively). As Tioga County municipal officials are inexperienced in the best way to handle various aspects of solar projects, we need assistance to make informed decisions during solar project local approvals as well as negotiating PILOT agreements with solar development companies. Specific issues such as siting criteria, land and community impacts and tax revenue sharing approaches, to name a few, are critical items that need analysis and assessment to identify best practices and develop policies that are suitable for Tioga County and its municipalities.

### Scope of Services

Tioga County is seeking a qualified professional consultant to conduct a study of best practices from a government or municipal standpoint in order to make better-informed decisions when approached by solar development companies to locate large-scale or CDG solar projects within any of its 15 municipalities. Items to consider include, but are not limited to:

- The best approach for PILOT payments/agreements or other method of tax revenue sharing among taxing jurisdictions.
- Development of siting criteria that consider the best use of land in relation to agricultural and environmental resources impacts, potential use of land other than solar, co-location of uses either land-based or rooftop, viewshed impacts, potential storm water runoff issues, safety, among others.
- Specific analysis of agrivoltaics co-location; benefits vs. detriments.
- Decommissioning issues such as ensuring developer completion and financial commitment adequacy to cover costs of dismantling, disposal and site reclamation.

It is expected that these best practices will be research for examples across NYS and nationwide, especially in areas of the country, like the western United States, where solar projects have been taking place for a longer period of time, are more commonplace and best practices have become standard. Finally, the selected consultant will work with the Tioga County Team to develop best practices for solar project management that are most suitable for Tioga County and its municipalities.

### Deliverables

A comprehensive study on these said best practices and development of a best practices and policies “plan” that is most suitable for Tioga County and its municipalities is the deliverable for this project.

### Timeline

- RFP distributed via email on Friday, November 19, 2021
- Questions due by Wednesday, December 1 2021 at Noon. Q&A will be posted to <https://www.tiogacountyny.gov/media/diyptmdr/TCSolarRFPQ&A.pdf> by December 1 at 4:00 PM.
- One electronic copy of the Proposal is due via email to contact below by Monday, December 13 by 4:00 PM
- Consultant will be selected and notified by Friday, December 17, 2021 by 4:00 PM
- Project completion is expected by be April 30, 2022

### Contract

The contract with the selected consultant will be subject to all Tioga County's requirements and conditions as stated in that future contract with selected consultant.

### Total Budget

TBD based on cost estimates included in proposals received. Proposals, therefore, must include a budget and total cost estimate.

### Contact

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