



November 20, 2020

## NOTICE OF INTENT

### TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

#### *Soliciting the Purchase, Installation, Operations and Maintenance of DC Fast Chargers in Select Areas of Maine*

The Efficiency Maine Trust (the Trust) plans to issue a request for proposals (RFP) to purchase, install, and operate DC Fast Chargers (DCFC) for electric vehicles (EVs) at sites in or near select communities and along select corridors in central and eastern Maine.

This solicitation constitutes "Phase III" of Maine's Working Plan for EV Charging Infrastructure and the use of VW Settlement funds. **The Trust intends to release this RFP before the end of January 2021** but is continuing to work on details of the solicitation. Please note that the details summarized below are subject to change at the Trust's discretion before the release of the RFP.

In order to give bidders extra time to develop their proposals and their project team, the Trust is providing this advance notice of the following core elements that we anticipate will be in the RFP:

- Bids must propose to purchase, install, maintain, and operate DCFC for a period of not less than 5 years.
- Priority locations or corridors in Maine for which bids will be accepted:
  - I-95 at Lewiston/Auburn
  - I-95 from Waterville to Bangor (inclusive)
  - Route 1 from Rockland to Ellsworth (inclusive)
- Eligible bidders include vendors as well as host site property owners or tenants. Each proposal will be required to identify a lead bidder.
- In contrast to the approach used for Phase I, the Trust anticipates that it will, under this RFP, separately score each site and will make multiple awards. A bidder may propose projects at more than one site. If a single bidder wins more than one award, the resulting site projects may be consolidated into a single contract.
- Minimum requirements for each site are anticipated to include: (1) Two 50-kW DCFC, where each charger is capable of universal service (i.e., serving both CCS and CHAdeMO), and the two DCFC are capable of charging two EVs simultaneously at 50 kW continuous; (2) Available to the public; (3) Letters of commitment from relevant parties to the bid team, including site hosts, charger operators, and vendor service providers; and (4) Agreement to grant the Trust a security interest in, and an option to take over operation of, a site's DCFC under certain circumstances.

The Trust anticipates that the proposals for each site will be scored based on a variety of factors, including: (1) cost to the program (i.e., amount of funding requested from the Trust per DCFC); (2) likelihood of use; (3) strategic value of the location; (4) quality of the proposed site, equipment, and systems; and (5) capacity, readiness and commitment of the bid team (including the site host).



The Trust anticipates offering financial incentives as follows:

- Up to 80% of the cost to purchase and install qualifying DCFC; and,
- Reimbursement of actual utility demand charges on a declining schedule (e.g., reimbursement of 100% of demand charges in Year 1, 80% in Year 2; 60% in Year 3; 40% in Year 4; 20% in Year 5).

The RFP will be noticed on the Trust's [website](#) and sent by email to everyone receiving this email notification. To add someone else to the RFP email notifications, please [click here](#). Questions regarding the upcoming RFP may be directed to Anastasia Hediger, Program Manager at [Anastasia.Hediger@efficiencymaine.com](mailto:Anastasia.Hediger@efficiencymaine.com). Once the RFP is released, all questions must be submitted in writing and follow the Q&A protocol as outlined in the RFP.

The anticipated schedule is to release the RFP and accompanying documents during January 2021. The Trust will host an optional pre-bidders conference in late January/early February 2021 to provide an overview of the RFP and answer questions. The date(s) for this and the Q&A period will be identified in the RFP.

Additional **estimated dates** are provided below to illustrate the current expectations for the timing of actions related to this RFP. The Trust reserves the right to modify this schedule at its discretion.

Key actions	Estimated dates
RFP issued	January 2021
Pre-bidders Conference	January/February 2021
Proposals due	April 2021
Award date	May 2021
Contract(s)	June 2021

Interested bidders are encouraged to frequently check the Efficiency Maine website for any updates or changes to this RFP schedule at [www.efficiencymaine.com/opportunities](http://www.efficiencymaine.com/opportunities).