



Questions and Answers from the February 9, 2017 Sustainable CUNY Webinar on Business Opportunities for Solar Energy Installations on Public Housing in New York City

Questions may have been edited for length or content. Duplicate questions, questions not relevant to this program and promotional announcements submitted as questions have been deleted.

1) Q: Is there a rough estimate as to the scale of the initial RFP?

A. Based on evaluations done to date, we (the Sustainable CUNY-NYCHA- ICF team) anticipate that the demonstration project pipeline may be in the 1-to-2 MW range. We are still in the process of developing the pipeline and will determine its exact scope at a later date.

2) Q. Does participation in the RFP require response to this RFI?

A. No, but we would still appreciate your response to the survey.

3) Q. NYC Solar Contractors do not have opportunities for multiple MW projects because we can't do ground mounts in NYC. Please credit experienced NYC solar contractors who may not have as much installed KW! Can that be taken into account in the RFP?

A. Locally relevant experience will be taken into consideration.

4) Q. For Community Shared Solar (CSS) projects, would there be an obligation for developers to sell production to NYCHA-affiliated members?

A. The details of any CSS projects have not yet been finalized.

5) Q. Does NYCHA require prevailing wage for contractor bids?

A. The topic of prevailing wage will be addressed in the RFP.

6) Q. Is NYCHA looking to emphasize projects that include community engagement strategies? And relatedly, would NYCHA be prioritizing projects that include partnerships with local community groups and community-based organizations?

A. NYCHA would welcome the opportunity to engage with community organizations in implementing job training and workforce development programs, as well as in promoting participation in CSS projects. As with all NYCHA capital projects, the implementer will be required to conduct resident information sessions at the locations where the infrastructure will be installed.

7) Q. Given the rate NYCHA pays at most sites can these portfolios offer any savings?

A. Priority will be given to on-site and remote net metered installations that can offset electric usage in NYCHA buildings served under the 062 tariff, which carries addressable costs of about 25 cents per kWh.



- 8) **Q. City work has always typically required a performance bond. Just wondering if that's required here?**
A. *The topic of performance bonds will be addressed in the RFP.*
- 9) **Q. The goal is set for 2026. Will the work be front-loaded into earlier years to take advantage of federal tax credit (when solar capital is owned by tax-paying entity)?**
A. *NYCHA is aware that the federal tax credit is a significant incentive due to be phased out before the end of this 10-year initiative. The pace of the overall program will depend on the outcomes and lessons of the demonstration project.*
- 10) **Q. Have there been any inter-agency conversations with, for instance, Department of Education to build CSS solar on school roofs, transit building roofs, etc. for use by other city agencies?**
A. *This initiative involves only NYCHA-owned public housing, but proposals that supplement approved installations on other public buildings are welcome. Sustainable CUNY is presently working with the City of New York to expand the deployment of solar installations to other types of public buildings. Click [here](#) for information on schools, and [here](#) for information on other city-owned buildings.*
- 11) **Q. Are you looking to do your own designs with HelioScope or will the contractors have the freedom to do that themselves?**
A. *We are using HelioScope to assist in the assessment of the solar potential of sites selected for the demonstration project pipeline. However, we fully expect that contractors will conduct their own evaluation and layouts.*
- 12) **Q. Considering what one hears about huge, inefficient boilers in NYCHA housing stock, why not a pilot program for solar thermal systems as well?**
A. *NYCHA may consider solar thermal in the future at sites where the roof capacity vs. hot water load makes sense.*
- 13) **Q. Do you expect solar portfolios to offer small rooftop and canopies for a PPA price of less than \$.05 per kWh?**
A. *We currently have no expectations regarding PPA prices. Our primary goal is to offset the highest cost electricity being purchased by NYCHA. One of the options for the first projects in the pipeline will be to generate passive income to NYCHA through roof leases via the community shared solar model.*
- 14) **Q. Are the results of the refined screening process referenced in Slide 15 available? Is there a catalog of roofs that have been screened using that process?**
A. *This is an internal process we are using to evaluate the properties being considered for the demonstration project pipeline. The HelioScope models will be made available for the sites selected for the demonstration.*



15) Q. Will the city's plan to lease NYCHA land to real estate developers impact this program?

A. No. Sites made available for new development will not be available for solar opportunities.

16) Q. What are the requirements for participation?

A. All requirements for participation in this program will be in the RFP.

17) Q. Do you have a list that shows the 062 meters and their locations?

A. Yes. We are able to identify the NYCHA buildings served under that rate and will be targeting them with on-site and remote net metered installations. That information will likely be made public in a future RFP for future behind-the-meter or remote net metered installations.

18) Q. Can you please send us all your email address for future communication?

A. Yes. Please direct all communications to nysolar@cuny.edu

19) Q. How do you plan to create job opportunities for residents in NYCHA housing?

A. As noted during the webinar, the RFPs will require that proposers develop a plan for green-collar jobs training and workforce development akin to NYCHA's [Section 3 program](#).

20) Q. Will preference be given in any percentage to minority or women-owned (MWBE) contractors?

A. This topic will be addressed in the RFP.

21) Q. Have you thought about the problem with vandalism?

A. Yes. The potential risks for vandalism will be factored into the site selection process.

22) Q. I wanted to confirm that I am on your distribution list for when the RFP and any additional information is released.

A. If you received the invitation to this webinar, you'll receive all future communications regarding this initiative. Be sure to accept emails from 'Constant Contact', and check your spam folder.

23) Q. Will there be incentives available for developers/contractors to participate in the NYCHA Solar Initiative?

A. As of now, NYHCA is not planning on any additional incentives beyond those presently offered on the federal, state or local level. NYSERDA PON 3414 may be applicable; click [here](#) for more information.

24) Q. Will NYCHA own any of these projects or is the Solar Initiative strictly for third-party owned options via PPAs or leases?

A. The topic of ownership models will be addressed in the RFP.