

**BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
PURCHASING DIVISION
400 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ROOM 148
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204-4665**



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION NO. I-07222021

**GEOHERMAL (GROUND SOURCE) HEAT
PUMP SYSTEMS**

Due Date: 08/05/2021, Time: 3:00 PM

**EMAIL INFORMATION TO: GABBY JOHNSON, BUYER
PHONE: 410-887-2241
EMAIL: gjohnson@baltimorecountymd.gov**

Amendments to solicitations often occur prior to bid opening and sometimes within as little as 48 hours prior to bid opening. It is the potential vendor's responsibility to frequently visit the Purchasing web site (www.baltimorecountymd.gov/purchasing) to obtain amendments once they have downloaded a solicitation.

**BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION NO. I-07222021
GEOTHERMAL (GROUND SOURCE) HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS**

RESPONSES DUE AUGUST 5, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

- 1.1 The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to obtain information from companies that design, install, and/or maintain geothermal (ground source) heat pump systems and related organizations on the suitability, restrictions, and relative costs of designing and installing geothermal (ground source) heat pump systems in the future at new and existing County facilities. The County is seeking as much information as possible through this RFI process.
- 1.2 This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes – it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. Organizations are hereby advised that the County will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the organizations' expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future County solicitation, if issued.
- 1.3 We appreciate your input on an issue of great importance to Baltimore County Government and its sustainability and climate action goals.

2. BACKGROUND.

- 2.1 Baltimore County's goal is that 100% of the County's building electricity use will be from renewable sources by 2026 and 125% by 2030. Geothermal (ground source) heat pumps will help meet this goal, as well as related sustainability and climate action goals to purchase clean energy, generate renewable energy onsite, and accelerate energy reductions.
- 2.2 By the issuance of this RFI the County hopes to define and quantify factors that would assist in identifying County facilities and projects where the use of geothermal (ground source) heat pumps would be suitable as well as economically feasible.

3. SOLUTIONS.

- 3.1 The County is seeking solution-oriented input from organizations that have experience with the design, installation, and/or maintenance of geothermal (ground source) heat pump systems, especially in the Baltimore County area. The following is a list of issues of interest. Organizations should not consider that this is an exhaustive list and are encouraged to provide any information that they deem to be of use to the County.
 - 3.1.1 What soil and ground conditions are suitable, how to identify them, and any measures to alleviate unfavorable soil conditions.
 - 3.1.2 What types of uses are allowable and reasonable over the ground source loops.
 - 3.1.3 What any other factors are that would render projects suitable or unsuitable

for use of geothermal (ground source) heat pump systems.

- 3.1.4 What the costs of installation and maintenance of geothermal (ground source) heat pump systems are in comparison to other HVAC systems.
- 3.1.5 What the restrictions and advantages are of different types of geothermal (ground source) heat pump systems.
- 3.1.6 What methods are available for estimating system sizing, space requirements, and costs.
- 3.1.7 What additional maintenance issues there may be with geothermal (ground source) heat pump systems.
- 3.1.8 Generally, what the efficiency rating improvements, energy savings, and GHG emission reductions are for geothermal (ground source) heat pump systems compared to other systems.

4. INSTRUCTIONS for RESPONDING.

- 4.1 Organizations responding to this RFI are requested to submit their written information by, Thursday August 5, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
- 4.2 Organizations are advised that the County cannot receive email attachments greater in size than twenty-five (25) megabytes and this size limitation may be further reduced by requirements of the Vendor's email provider which are beyond the control of the County. Vendor should consider separating any large attachment into multiple parts and emailing each part separately. In such case, Vendor will note that each email is *1 of 2, 2 of 2*, etc.
- 4.3 As with any system, power outages or technology problems may arise that are outside of the County's control and could affect your submission. The County will not be held accountable for such issues that may delay the transmission of any submittal.

5. INQUIRIES.

- 5.1 All correspondence / questions related to this RFI must be directed, in writing, to the Buyer, Gabby Johnson at gjohnson@baltimorecountymd.gov
- 5.2 Any inquiries, suggestions or requests concerning interpretation, clarification or additional information pertaining to this RFI will be provided by written addendum and posted on <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/budfin/purchasing/currentsolicitations.html>.
- 5.3 It is requested that written questions be submitted **seven (7) working days** prior to due date, August 5, 2021, 3:00 p.m.