



January 29, 2024

ACT School Bus Deployment Technical Assistance RFP Questions and Answers

Program Summary and Goals (Page 2 of the RFP)

Question: Who will the Technical Consultant be providing technical assistance to?

Answer: The selected Technical Consultant will be providing technical assistance to Project Teams selected under Round 3 of ACT School Bus (the round that will complement the EPA rebate round that is set to close on 1/31/24, *now 2/14/24*) and potentially beyond. Our current Technical Consultant is working with the 6 districts selected under Round 1 and will work with the districts we select under Round 2 of ACT School Bus.

Question: How did MassCEC measure success for the Technical Assistance Program and for each site/school district?

Answer: Generally speaking, Program success is defined by strong project management (following up with districts, completing reports in a timely manner, consistent follow-up with MassCEC) and level of technical expertise.

Question: Does MassCEC have (an) internal stakeholder group(s) school districts, perhaps as part of the development of the incentive program, either one time or on-going?

Answer: MassCEC conducted outreach to school districts, transportation providers, dealers, school industry groups, transportation groups, EPA, and other state and federal agencies during the Program design phase. That said, MassCEC does not have, nor have we ever had a defined internal stakeholder group for this Program.

Scope of Work

Task One Specific Questions (Page 4 of the RFP)

Question: Will the Technical Consultant be providing application support for future rounds of the ACT School Bus Fleet Deployment Program only, or will the Technical Consultant also assist Project Applicants apply to future rounds of the EPA Clean School Bus Program?

Answer: MassCEC will hire a Technical Consultant to support the ACT School Bus Program. The Technical Consultant is not hired by MassCEC to support the Clean School Bus Program.

Task Two Specific Questions (Page 5 of the RFP)

Question: Does MassCEC anticipate the need for the Technical Consultant to complete site visits with Project Teams to finalize the needs analysis and site assessment(s) for Task 2A and/or the site and operations plan(s) for Task 2E?

Answer: MassCEC expects the selected Technical Consultant to conduct at least one in-person site visit for each school district under Task 2A, the Finalized Needs Analysis and Site Assessment. The Technical Consultant will also likely need to conduct another in-person site assessment at each school district during and/or following the construction phase of each project.

Question: Task 2C is listed as optional. Is it up to the Technical Consultant or Project Team to pursue this analysis?

Answer: The Technical Consultant Team may choose whether to list this service in their application. If the selected Technical Consultant has listed Task 2C in their application, then it will be up to each Project Team whether they would like to take advantage of this service.

Question: What criteria does MassCEC or the prior incentive program work use to determine the suitability of optional DERs?

Answer: This is largely based on cost and Technical Consultant findings from the site visits/data collection phases. We let the Project Teams decide whether they would like the Consultant Team to conduct a DER Analysis.

Task Three Specific Questions (Page 8 of the RFP)

Question: Does MassCEC anticipate the need for the Technical Consultant to complete site visits with Project Teams for the activities under Task 3? If so, what is the anticipated frequency?

Answer: The selected Technical Consultant will likely need to conduct one in-person site assessment for each school district during or shortly after construction.

Miscellaneous

Question: Is a report available detailing the learnings from the past 3 years including how many school districts were touched?

Answer: Our Program began in 2022, and we began working directly with school districts under this Program in the spring/fall of 2023. As such, public facing reports under this Program have not been developed and/or finalized yet.

Question: How deep did the communication go, and how many school districts (and related entities) were involved in the incentive program?

Answer: MassCEC and the Technical Consultant team hold Monthly Meetings with each Project Team/school district. Sometimes these meetings are more frequent depending on each Project Team's needs. We are currently working with 6 school districts under the Deployment Program.