

Organics Infrastructure Grants

Release Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Proposals Due: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Contact for Proposals: Paul Tomasi, Executive Director, Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District
(802) 626-3532 director@nekwmd.org

THE DISTRICT WILL MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT VENDORS WITH UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH VENDOR TO PERIODICALLY CHECK <http://www.nekwmd.org> FOR ANY AND ALL NOTIFICATIONS, RELEASES AND AMENDMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RFP.

Introduction and Purpose

The Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) is making up to \$250,000 available for grants for expanded or new Food Scrap Processing Capacity Projects such as: composting facilities, anaerobic digestion facilities, or organics transfer stations. The maximum grant award for any individual project is \$250,000. Grantee(s) will not be required to provide matching funds; however, projects that provide a match will be scored higher than those that do not.

A November 2014 assessment of regional food scrap recycling identified the need for 144 tons of processing capacity per week to service the entire Northeast Kingdom region (including District and non-District towns). Current processing capacity accounts for approximately 30 tons per week leaving a shortfall of over 100 tons per week (2014 Northeast Kingdom Regional Food Scrap Recycling Assessment, Highfields Center for Composting and Compost Technical Services).

In 2013, there were only a handful of solid waste haulers offering food scrap collection in Northern Vermont, now that number has grown beyond 20. Haulers need viable processing facilities where they can take food scraps.

Scope of Work

The NEKWMD seeks proposals for Food Scrap Processing Capacity Projects that propose to expand food scrap processing capacity for Northeast Kingdom residents and businesses at existing or new facilities. Facilities may be owned by the municipality or solid waste district, but facility operations can be subcontracted to third parties. Projects that propose a public/private partnership may also be considered. Eligible proposals could include:

- composting facilities – pads, aeration, buildings, processing equipment
- anaerobic digester facilities – buildings, tanks, processing equipment
- organics transfer stations – buildings, pads, processing equipment

See **Deadlines and Content of Proposals** sections for all items that must be included in the proposal.

Funding and Method of Payment

Funding for the RFP is available from the NEKWMD through a grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Payment is contingent upon available funding.

Available Funds: Up to \$250,000 is available.

Maximum Grant Award: Up to \$250,000.

Match Requirements: Grantees will not be required to provide matching funds. However, projects that include matching funds will be scored higher.

Eligible costs to be reimbursed by the grant include: engineering and site design, construction costs for new construction or expansion, purchase and installation of equipment. Municipal or solid waste district staff costs are not eligible costs for reimbursement or match under this grant.

Payments: All payments will be made after the Grantee submits satisfactory invoices for reimbursement for costs the Grantee has already paid for during the project, and so long as project milestones are being met.

Project Timeline

All work is to be completed within grant term outlined in the final grant agreement. See the **Content of Proposals** section for specific project timeline and project milestone requirements. It is anticipated that projects signed under this grant program will be completed within two years or less. Grantees will also be required to sign a long-term lease/maintenance agreement with a minimum of ten years.

Deadlines

Questions: All questions are required to be submitted electronically via email to Paul Tomasi at director@nekwmd.org by **Friday, February 12, 2021, 4:00 pm EDST** using the subject line *"Organics Infrastructure Grant RFP Questions."*

Submittal: All proposals must be submitted electronically via email to Paul Tomasi at director@nekwmd.org by **Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 4:00 pm EDST** using the subject line *"Organics Infrastructure Grant RFP Proposal."*

Bid opening: Proposals are anticipated to be opened **Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 9:00 am EDST.**

Notification: Proposals preliminarily accepted by the NEKWMD are anticipated to be notified **Wednesday, March 10, 2021.**

Content of Proposals

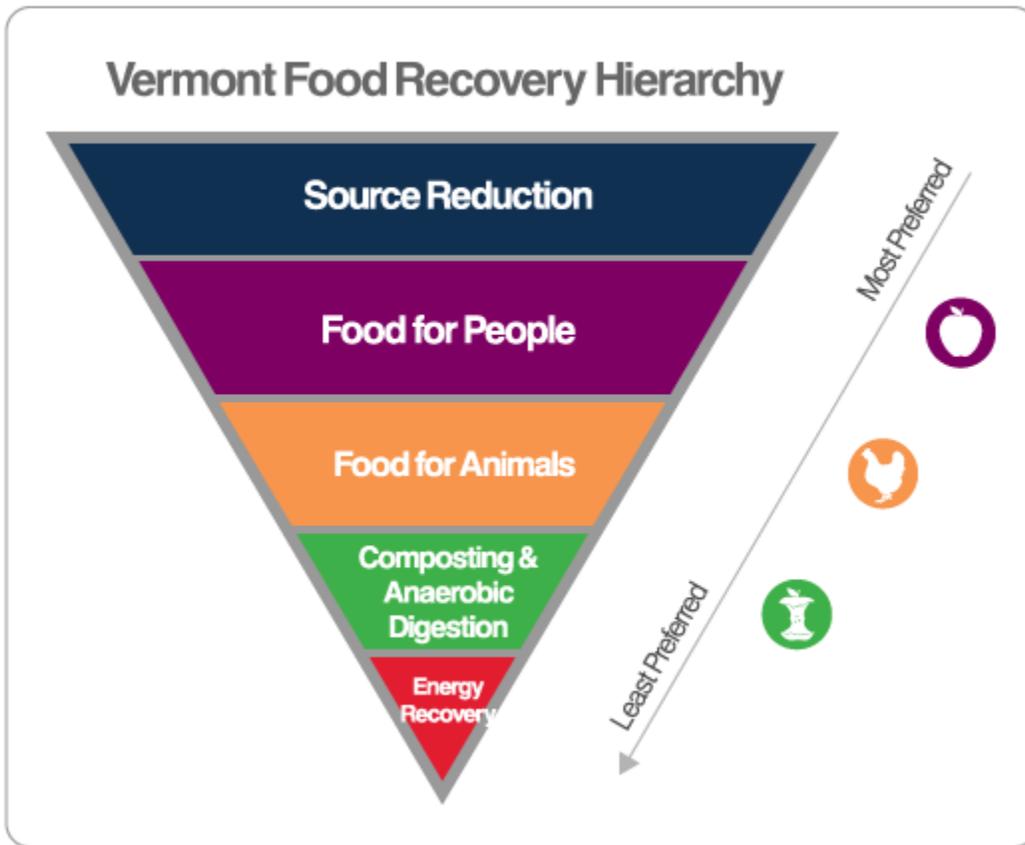
All proposals must include the following information:

1. **Preparers' Statement:** A statement identifying individuals who were involved in the preparation of the proposal as well as a single point of contact.
2. **Experience:** A detailed description of the organization's experience with managing organics infrastructure including previous food waste management and project staff qualifications and experience. This can include resumes, reports, and descriptions of expertise.
3. **Certificate of Insurance:** A certificate of insurance, indicating that the entity or entities have met the insurance requirements listed in **Attachment B.**
4. **Scope of Work:** A detailed Scope of Work including:
 - a. A full project description, including the facility expansion/construction plan, the location of the proposed project, and the food scrap processing or management method proposed.

- b. Site designs if applicable.
5. **Project Need:**
- An estimate of annual tonnage of food scraps to be processed. If the proposal is for a facility expansion, include the current annual tons of food scraps processed and the additional projected amount with the expansion.
 - An explanation of the population served, such as commercial businesses or residents or both. If the proposal is for a facility expansion, include the current population served.
6. **Budget:** Complete using **Attachment A: Budget Worksheet**. Include all eligible costs to be reimbursed by the grant including: engineering and site design; construction costs for new construction or expansion, purchase and installation of equipment. Municipal or solid waste district staff costs are not eligible costs for reimbursement or match under this grant. Budgets must include:
- Detailed outline of all costs, including separate cost breakouts for design, construction, and equipment, and a cumulative total of the entire project cost.
 - Description of cost effectiveness of the proposed project and its financial sustainability.
 - Description of other funding sources, including applicant match (if applicable) to meet total project costs.
 - Projected future operating costs and an associated operating budget.
7. **Milestones Table:** A detailed milestones table (see sample below), that describes milestones and deliverables for the NEKWMD’s review and involvement. Payments will be made after the Grantee submits satisfactory invoices for reimbursement and so long as project milestones are being met. Milestones table should include a clear timeframe of:
- engineering and site design (if applicable)
 - permit approval process
 - equipment purchases
 - target date for completion of construction
8. **Selection Criteria:** Proposals must make sure that they’ve clearly addressed each of the Selection Criteria identified in this RFP below.

Sample Milestones table to be included in the proposal and tailored the project:

| | Milestones | Deliverable | Timeframe |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | <u>The Awardee will:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host first (1st) site visit and project plan review with NEKWMD including: timeline of tasks, review of permits required, site walk, and project budget review. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st NEKWMD Site Visit Secure funding needed to meet total project costs and submit documentation | Preparations will begin immediately upon receipt of award approval. Within 3-months of signed grant agreement – June 1, 2021 |
| 2 | <u>The Awardee will:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire contractor(s) to prepare project design and preliminary engineering plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit preliminary engineering plans | Within 1-year of signed grant agreement – no later than April 1, 2022 |
| 3 | <u>The Awardee will:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce mid-term project status report including: status of tasks with timeline, status of permits, final engineering design plans and specifications, status of construction, and project budget with actuals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit final engineering plans and specifications Document all permits secured for the project Submit contract for construction | No later than October 1, 2022 |
| 4 | <u>The Awardee will:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce final project status report including: all tasks completed, facility construction completed, final budget, and all permits obtained. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Report to NEKWMD At completion of project, submit “As Built” plans that are stamped by a professional engineer. | April 1, 2023 |



Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the NEKMWD Executive Committee with final approval by the full Board of Supervisors. Selection will be based on the following criteria out of 100 possible points:

- **40 points – Need**
 - 15 points** – Total amount of food scraps (tons) to be processed at facility. For existing facility expansions, specify additional processing capacity tonnage.
 - 15 points** – Population served: project serves both commercial and residential food scrap generators in both District and non-District towns.
 - 10 points** – The project’s relative position on the Vermont Food Recovery Hierarchy (shown above)
- **25 points – Technical Approach**
 - 10 points** – Viable and sustainable project approach
 - 10 points** – Project readiness: project is in design phase with construction anticipated to commence by July 2021.
 - 5 points** – Applicant has or is in the process of acquiring all necessary permits
- **20 points –Performance**
 - 10 points** – Experience with food scraps processing
 - 10 points** – Creating new or expanding existing food scrap processing operation
- **15 points – Cost Effectiveness:**
 - 10 points** – Budget clearly outlined, cost effective, and shows financial sustainability of the operation and proposed project.
 - 5 points** – Match is provided by the applicant.

Reservation of NEKWMD's Rights

The NEKWMD reserves the right:

- to accept or reject any and all bids, in whole or in part, with or without cause in the best interest of the NEKWMD;
- waive technicalities in submissions; (A technicality is a minor deviation from the requirements of an RFP that does not impact the substantive terms of the bid/RFP and can be considered without a material impact on the RFP process, etc.). If uncertain of whether a condition qualifies as a technicality, consult with the NEKWMD. For example, a late bid is NOT considered a technicality;
- to make purchases outside of the awarded contracts where it is deemed in the best interest of the NEKWMD; and
- to obtain clarification or additional information.

Insurance

Respondents to this RFP should be aware that they will need to agree to the State of Vermont Customary Contract Provisions (Attachment B) in order to execute an agreement for this project.

Special care should be paid to Workers' Compensation coverage for out-of-state Vendors. Vermont statute requires insurance carriers be specifically licensed to write Workers' Compensation coverage in Vermont. Out-of-state Vendors may have Workers' Compensation coverage valid in their home state, but their carrier may not be licensed to cover workers' compensation for work actually performed by their employees in Vermont.

Confidentiality

After conclusion of the contracting process, Proposals are a matter of public record. If an application includes material considered by the applicant to be proprietary and confidential under 1 V.S.A., Chapter 5, the application shall clearly designate the material as such and explain why such material should be considered confidential. The Vendor must identify each page or section of the Proposal that it believes is proprietary and confidential with sufficient grounds to justify each exemption from release, including the prospective harm to the competitive position of the applicant if the identified material were to be released.

Under no circumstances shall the entire Proposal be designated as proprietary or confidential. If the Vendor marks portions of the Proposal confidential, the Vendor shall provide a redacted version of the Proposal for release to the public. Notwithstanding the above, the NEKWMD has an independent obligation under Vermont law to determine whether any proposal material is subject to public inspection and copying upon request, which may include material that has otherwise been designated as proprietary and confidential by the Vendor. The Vendor's designation of material as proprietary and confidential, and submission of a redacted Proposal, are provided to the NEKWMD for informational purposes in the event the NEKWMD receives a public records request and will not result in withholding of materials by the NEKWMD unless expressly supported by Vermont law.

Attachments

- SFA – Standard Contract for Services (template)
- Attachment A – Budget Worksheet
- Attachment B – Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants, Revised December 15, 2017
- *Potential additional Attachments that may apply:*
 - *Other Contract Provisions (if professional liability required or any other applicable contract provisions)*

SFA - STANDARD CONTRACT FOR SERVICES**[replace based on State/Federal and Contract/Grant]**

1. **Parties:** This is a contract for services between the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (hereinafter called “NEKWMD”), and _____ with principal place of business at _____ (hereinafter called “Contractor). Contractor’s form of business organization is _____. It is the Contractor’s responsibility to contact the Vermont Department of Taxes to determine if, by law, the Contractor is required to have a Vermont Department of Taxes Business Account Number.
2. **Subject Matter:** The subject matter of this contract is personal services generally on the subject of _____. Detailed services to be provided by the contractor are described in Attachment A.
3. **Maximum Amount:** In consideration of the services to be performed by Contractor, the NEKWMD agrees to pay Contractor, in accordance with the payment provisions specified in Attachment A, a sum not to exceed \$ _____. This contract cannot be used as match for the purpose of obtaining additional federal funds by the contractor without the written approval of the NEKWMD.
4. **Subcontracting:** Contractor shall not assign labor duties to a subcontractor without the prior written approval of the NEKWMD. Written approval is obtained by completing the Request for Approval to Subcontract form.
5. **Ownership and Disposition of Equipment:** Any equipment purchased or furnished to the Contractor by the NEKWMD under this Agreement is provided on a loan basis only and remains the property of the NEKWMD. Contractor must submit a written request to retain the equipment at the end of agreement term for the same use and intended purpose as outlined in this agreement. The written request should include: description of equipment, date of purchase, original cost and estimated current market value.
6. **Contract Term:** The period of contractor’s performance shall begin on _____ and end on _____. This contract may be renewed for up to 2 additional one year periods upon written agreement by the NEKWMD and the Contractor.
7. **Source of Funds:** NEKWMD funds granted by Vermont’s Department of Environmental Conservation, Agency of Natural Resources
8. **Amendment:** No changes, modifications, or amendments in the terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement shall be effective unless reduced to writing, numbered, and signed by the duly authorized representative of the NEKWMD and Grantee. No amendment will be considered without a detailed justification to support the amendment request. Failure to provide an adequate justification may result in the denial of the request. Any request for an amendment to this agreement must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the end date of this agreement or the request may be denied.
9. **Cancellation:** This contract may be canceled by either party by giving written notice at least _____ days in advance.
10. **Fiscal Year:** The contractor’s fiscal year starts _____ and ends _____.
11. **Work product ownership:** Upon full payment by the NEKWMD, all products of the Contractor’s work, including outlines, reports, charts, sketches, drawings, art work, plans, photographs, specifications, estimates, computer programs, or similar documents, become the sole property of the NEKWMD and may not be copyrighted or resold by Contractor.
12. **Attachments** This contract consists of the following attachments which are incorporated herein:

Attachment A – Budget Worksheet

Attachment B - Standard Contract Provisions for Contracts and Grants

Request for Approval to Subcontract

13. Order of Precedence: Any ambiguity, conflict or inconsistency between the documents comprising this contract shall be resolved according to the following order of precedence:
- a. Standard Contract
 - b. Attachment B (Standard Contract Provisions for Contracts and Grants)
 - c. Attachment A

**ATTACHMENT B: STANDARD STATE PROVISIONS
FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS
REVISED DECEMBER 15, 2017**

1. Definitions: For purposes of this Attachment, “Party” shall mean the Contractor, Grantee or Subrecipient, with whom the State of Vermont is executing this Agreement and consistent with the form of the Agreement. “Agreement” shall mean the specific contract or grant to which this form is attached.

2. Entire Agreement: This Agreement, whether in the form of a contract, State-funded grant, or Federally-funded grant, represents the entire agreement between the parties on the subject matter. All prior agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, and understandings shall have no effect.

3. Governing Law, Jurisdiction and Venue; No Waiver of Jury Trial: This Agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Vermont. Any action or proceeding brought by either the State or the Party in connection with this Agreement shall be brought and enforced in the Superior Court of the State of Vermont, Civil Division, Washington Unit. The Party irrevocably submits to the jurisdiction of this court for any action or proceeding regarding this Agreement. The Party agrees that it must first exhaust any applicable administrative remedies with respect to any cause of action that it may have against the State with regard to its performance under this Agreement. Party agrees that the State shall not be required to submit to binding arbitration or waive its right to a jury trial.

4. Sovereign Immunity: The State reserves all immunities, defenses, rights or actions arising out of the State’s sovereign status or under the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution. No waiver of the State’s immunities, defenses, rights or actions shall be implied or otherwise deemed to exist by reason of the State’s entry into this Agreement.

5. No Employee Benefits For Party: The Party understands that the State will not provide any individual retirement benefits, group life insurance, group health and dental insurance, vacation or sick leave, workers compensation or other benefits or services available to State employees, nor will the State withhold any state or Federal taxes except as required under applicable tax laws, which shall be determined in advance of execution of the Agreement. The Party understands that all tax returns required by the Internal Revenue Code and the State of Vermont, including but not limited to income, withholding, sales and use, and rooms and meals, must be filed by the Party, and information as to Agreement income will be provided by the State of Vermont to the Internal Revenue Service and the Vermont Department of Taxes.

6. Independence: The Party will act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees of the State.

7. Defense and Indemnity: The Party shall defend the State and its officers and employees against all third-party claims or suits arising in whole or in part from any act or omission of the Party or of any agent of the Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement. The State shall notify the Party in the event of any such claim or suit, and the Party shall immediately retain counsel and otherwise provide a complete defense against the entire claim or suit. The State retains the right to participate at its own expense in the defense of any claim. The State shall have the right to approve all proposed settlements of such claims or suits.

After a final judgment or settlement, the Party may request recoupment of specific defense costs and may file suit in Washington Superior Court requesting recoupment. The Party shall be entitled to recoup costs only upon a showing that such costs were entirely unrelated to the defense of any claim arising from an act or omission of the Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement.

The Party shall indemnify the State and its officers and employees if the State, its officers or employees become legally obligated to pay any damages or losses arising from any act or omission of the Party or an agent of the Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement.

Notwithstanding any contrary language anywhere, in no event shall the terms of this Agreement or any document furnished by the Party in connection with its performance under this Agreement obligate the State to (1) defend or indemnify the Party or any third party, or (2) otherwise be liable for the expenses or reimbursement, including attorneys' fees, collection costs or other costs of the Party or any third party.

8. Insurance: Before commencing work on this Agreement the Party must provide certificates of insurance to show that the following minimum coverages are in effect. It is the responsibility of the Party to maintain current certificates of insurance on file with the State through the term of this Agreement. No warranty is made that the coverages and limits listed herein are adequate to cover and protect the interests of the Party for the Party's operations. These are solely minimums that have been established to protect the interests of the State.

Workers Compensation: With respect to all operations performed, the Party shall carry workers' compensation insurance in accordance with the laws of the State of Vermont. Vermont will accept an out-of-state employer's workers' compensation coverage while operating in Vermont provided that the insurance carrier is licensed to write insurance in Vermont and an amendatory endorsement is added to the policy adding Vermont for coverage purposes. Otherwise, the party shall secure a Vermont workers' compensation policy, if necessary, to comply with Vermont law.

General Liability and Property Damage: With respect to all operations performed under this Agreement, the Party shall carry general liability insurance having all major divisions of coverage including, but not limited to:

- Premises - Operations

- Products and Completed Operations

- Personal Injury Liability

- Contractual Liability

The policy shall be on an occurrence form and limits shall not be less than:

 - \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence

 - \$2,000,000 General Aggregate

 - \$1,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate

 - \$1,000,000 Personal & Advertising Injury

Automotive Liability: The Party shall carry automotive liability insurance covering all motor vehicles, including hired and non-owned coverage, used in connection with the Agreement. Limits of coverage shall not be less than \$500,000 combined single limit. If performance of this Agreement involves construction, or the transport of persons or hazardous materials, limits of coverage shall not be less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit.

Additional Insured. The General Liability and Property Damage coverages required for performance of this Agreement shall include the State of Vermont and its agencies, departments, officers and employees as Additional Insureds. If performance of this Agreement involves construction, or the transport of persons or hazardous materials, then the required Automotive Liability coverage shall include the State of Vermont and its agencies, departments, officers and employees as Additional Insureds. Coverage shall be primary and non-contributory with any other insurance and self-insurance.

Notice of Cancellation or Change. There shall be no cancellation, change, potential exhaustion of aggregate limits or non-renewal of insurance coverage(s) without thirty (30) days written prior written notice to the State.

9. Reliance by the State on Representations: All payments by the State under this Agreement will be made in reliance upon the accuracy of all representations made by the Party in accordance with this Agreement, including but not limited to bills, invoices, progress reports and other proofs of work.

10. False Claims Act: The Party acknowledges that it is subject to the Vermont False Claims Act as set forth in 32 V.S.A. § 630 *et seq.* If the Party violates the Vermont False Claims Act it shall be liable to the State for civil penalties, treble damages and the costs of the investigation and prosecution of such violation, including attorney's fees, except as the same may be reduced by a court of competent jurisdiction. The Party's liability to the State under the False Claims Act shall not be limited notwithstanding any agreement of the State to otherwise limit Party's liability.

11. Whistleblower Protections: The Party shall not discriminate or retaliate against one of its employees or agents for disclosing information concerning a violation of law, fraud, waste, abuse of authority or acts threatening health or safety, including but not limited to allegations concerning the False Claims Act. Further, the Party shall not require such employees or agents to forego monetary awards as a result of such disclosures, nor should they be required to report misconduct to the Party or its agents prior to reporting to any governmental entity and/or the public.

12. Location of State Data: No State data received, obtained, or generated by the Party in connection with performance under this Agreement shall be processed, transmitted, stored, or transferred by any means outside the continental United States, except with the express written permission of the State.

13. Records Available for Audit: The Party shall maintain all records pertaining to performance under this agreement. "Records" means any written or recorded information, regardless of physical form or characteristics, which is produced or acquired by the Party in the performance of this agreement. Records produced or acquired in a machine-readable electronic format shall be maintained in that format. The records described shall be made available at reasonable times during the period of the Agreement and for three years thereafter or for any period required by law for inspection by any authorized representatives of the State or Federal Government. If any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the three-year period, the records shall be retained until all litigation, claims or audit findings involving the records have been resolved.

14. Fair Employment Practices and Americans with Disabilities Act: Party agrees to comply with the requirement of 21 V.S.A. Chapter 5, Subchapter 6, relating to fair employment practices, to the full extent applicable. Party shall also ensure, to the full extent required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, that qualified individuals with disabilities receive equitable access to the services, programs, and activities provided by the Party under this Agreement.

15. Set Off: The State may set off any sums which the Party owes the State against any sums due the Party under this Agreement; provided, however, that any set off of amounts due the State of Vermont as taxes shall be in accordance with the procedures more specifically provided hereinafter.

16. Taxes Due to the State:

- A.** Party understands and acknowledges responsibility, if applicable, for compliance with State tax laws, including income tax withholding for employees performing services within the State, payment of use tax on property used within the State, corporate and/or personal income tax on income earned within the State.
- B.** Party certifies under the pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date this Agreement is signed, the Party is in good standing with respect to, or in full compliance with, a plan to pay any and all taxes due the State of Vermont.

- C. Party understands that final payment under this Agreement may be withheld if the Commissioner of Taxes determines that the Party is not in good standing with respect to or in full compliance with a plan to pay any and all taxes due to the State of Vermont.
- D. Party also understands the State may set off taxes (and related penalties, interest and fees) due to the State of Vermont, but only if the Party has failed to make an appeal within the time allowed by law, or an appeal has been taken and finally determined and the Party has no further legal recourse to contest the amounts due.

17. Taxation of Purchases: All State purchases must be invoiced tax free. An exemption certificate will be furnished upon request with respect to otherwise taxable items.

18. Child Support: (Only applicable if the Party is a natural person, not a corporation or partnership.) Party states that, as of the date this Agreement is signed, he/she:

- A. is not under any obligation to pay child support; or
- B. is under such an obligation and is in good standing with respect to that obligation; or
- C. has agreed to a payment plan with the Vermont Office of Child Support Services and is in full compliance with that plan.

Party makes this statement with regard to support owed to any and all children residing in Vermont. In addition, if the Party is a resident of Vermont, Party makes this statement with regard to support owed to any and all children residing in any other state or territory of the United States.

19. Sub-Agreements: Party shall not assign, subcontract or subgrant the performance of this Agreement or any portion thereof to any other Party without the prior written approval of the State. Party shall be responsible and liable to the State for all acts or omissions of subcontractors and any other person performing work under this Agreement pursuant to an agreement with Party or any subcontractor.

In the case this Agreement is a contract with a total cost in excess of \$250,000, the Party shall provide to the State a list of all proposed subcontractors and subcontractors' subcontractors, together with the identity of those subcontractors' workers compensation insurance providers, and additional required or requested information, as applicable, in accordance with Section 32 of The Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act No. 54).

Party shall include the following provisions of this Attachment B in all subcontracts for work performed solely for the State of Vermont and subcontracts for work performed in the State of Vermont: Section 10 ("False Claims Act"); Section 11 ("Whistleblower Protections"); Section 12 ("Location of State Data"); Section 14 ("Fair Employment Practices and Americans with Disabilities Act"); Section 16 ("Taxes Due the State"); Section 18 ("Child Support"); Section 20 ("No Gifts or Gratuities"); Section 22 ("Certification Regarding Debarment"); Section 30 ("State Facilities"); and Section 32.A ("Certification Regarding Use of State Funds").

20. No Gifts or Gratuities: Party shall not give title or possession of anything of substantial value (including property, currency, travel and/or education programs) to any officer or employee of the State during the term of this Agreement.

21. Copies: Party shall use reasonable best efforts to ensure that all written reports prepared under this Agreement are printed using both sides of the paper.

22. Certification Regarding Debarment: Party certifies under pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date that this Agreement is signed, neither Party nor Party's principals (officers, directors, owners, or partners) are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or excluded from participation in Federal programs, or programs supported in whole or in part by Federal funds.

Party further certifies under pains and penalties of perjury that, as of the date that this Agreement is signed, Party is not presently debarred, suspended, nor named on the State's debarment list at: <http://bgs.vermont.gov/purchasing/debarment>

23. Conflict of Interest: Party shall fully disclose, in writing, any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest.

24. Confidentiality: Party acknowledges and agrees that this Agreement and any and all information obtained by the State from the Party in connection with this Agreement are subject to the State of Vermont Access to Public Records Act, 1 V.S.A. § 315 et seq.

25. Force Majeure: Neither the State nor the Party shall be liable to the other for any failure or delay of performance of any obligations under this Agreement to the extent such failure or delay shall have been wholly or principally caused by acts or events beyond its reasonable control rendering performance illegal or impossible (excluding strikes or lock-outs) ("Force Majeure"). Where Force Majeure is asserted, the nonperforming party must prove that it made all reasonable efforts to remove, eliminate or minimize such cause of delay or damages, diligently pursued performance of its obligations under this Agreement, substantially fulfilled all non-excused obligations, and timely notified the other party of the likelihood or actual occurrence of an event described in this paragraph.

26. Marketing: Party shall not refer to the State in any publicity materials, information pamphlets, press releases, research reports, advertising, sales promotions, trade shows, or marketing materials or similar communications to third parties except with the prior written consent of the State.

27. Termination:

- A. Non-Appropriation:** If this Agreement extends into more than one fiscal year of the State (July 1 to June 30), and if appropriations are insufficient to support this Agreement, the State may cancel at the end of the fiscal year, or otherwise upon the expiration of existing appropriation authority. In the case that this Agreement is a Grant that is funded in whole or in part by Federal funds, and in the event Federal funds become unavailable or reduced, the State may suspend or cancel this Grant immediately, and the State shall have no obligation to pay Subrecipient from State revenues.
- B. Termination for Cause:** Either party may terminate this Agreement if a party materially breaches its obligations under this Agreement, and such breach is not cured within thirty (30) days after delivery of the non-breaching party's notice or such longer time as the non-breaching party may specify in the notice.
- C. Termination Assistance:** Upon nearing the end of the final term or termination of this Agreement, without respect to cause, the Party shall take all reasonable and prudent measures to facilitate any transition required by the State. All State property, tangible and intangible, shall be returned to the State upon demand at no additional cost to the State in a format acceptable to the State.

28. Continuity of Performance: In the event of a dispute between the Party and the State, each party will continue to perform its obligations under this Agreement during the resolution of the dispute until this Agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms.

29. No Implied Waiver of Remedies: Either party's delay or failure to exercise any right, power or remedy under this Agreement shall not impair any such right, power or remedy, or be construed as a waiver of any such right, power or remedy. All waivers must be in writing.

30. State Facilities: If the State makes space available to the Party in any State facility during the term of this Agreement for purposes of the Party's performance under this Agreement, the Party shall only use the space in accordance with all policies and procedures governing access to and use of State facilities which

shall be made available upon request. State facilities will be made available to Party on an “AS IS, WHERE IS” basis, with no warranties whatsoever.

31. Requirements Pertaining Only to Federal Grants and Subrecipient Agreements: If this Agreement is a grant that is funded in whole or in part by Federal funds:

A. Requirement to Have a Single Audit: The Subrecipient will complete the Subrecipient Annual Report annually within 45 days after its fiscal year end, informing the State of Vermont whether or not a Single Audit is required for the prior fiscal year. If a Single Audit is required, the Subrecipient will submit a copy of the audit report to the granting Party within 9 months. If a single audit is not required, only the Subrecipient Annual Report is required.

For fiscal years ending before December 25, 2015, a Single Audit is required if the subrecipient expends \$500,000 or more in Federal assistance during its fiscal year and must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133. For fiscal years ending on or after December 25, 2015, a Single Audit is required if the subrecipient expends \$750,000 or more in Federal assistance during its fiscal year and must be conducted in accordance with 2 CFR Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200, Subpart F. The Subrecipient Annual Report is required to be submitted within 45 days, whether or not a Single Audit is required.

B. Internal Controls: In accordance with 2 CFR Part II, §200.303, the Party must establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award to provide reasonable assurance that the Party is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in “Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government” issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the “Internal Control Integrated Framework”, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

C. Mandatory Disclosures: In accordance with 2 CFR Part II, §200.113, Party must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the State, all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in the imposition of sanctions which may include disallowance of costs incurred, withholding of payments, termination of the Agreement, suspension/debarment, etc.

32. Requirements Pertaining Only to State-Funded Grants:

A. Certification Regarding Use of State Funds: If Party is an employer and this Agreement is a State-funded grant in excess of \$1,001, Party certifies that none of these State funds will be used to interfere with or restrain the exercise of Party’s employee’s rights with respect to unionization.

B. Good Standing Certification (Act 154 of 2016): If this Agreement is a State-funded grant, Party hereby represents: (i) that it has signed and provided to the State the form prescribed by the Secretary of Administration for purposes of certifying that it is in good standing (as provided in Section 13(a)(2) of Act 154) with the Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, or otherwise explaining the circumstances surrounding the inability to so certify, and (ii) that it will comply with the requirements stated therein.

(End of Standard Provisions)