

QUESTIONS & RESPONSES
for
TRASH, FOOD SCRAPS & RECYCLABLE COLLECTION SERVICE

1. Would the state consider a bid extension beyond the original due date of June 23rd?

The Bid Due date has been changed to July 13, 2015. A second round of Questions will also be conducted. Please see Addendum-2.

2. Are the state parks included in this RFP?

Yes.

3. Will the state provide the ANR universal decals that are required to be put on the containers?

The decals are free for download in a variety of file formats at the following website:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/URsymbols.htm>

4. What is the sawdust for?

Sawdust is used to help absorb liquid and reduce odors of food scraps placed in totes waiting for collection pick up. This is a desired item for a food scrap hauler to provide but not a required item.

5. What type of “weather proof covers” are expected for the roll-off containers?

Covers should be provided for dumpsters. They are not expected for roll off containers. Drivers picking up roll-off containers are expected to have a tarp to cover their load for road transport

6. Who will be responsible to keep the “weather proof covers” on the roll-off containers?

Covers are not needed for roll-off containers. Normally, one would use a tarp to cover a roll off container that had waste such as c&d debris in it or bagged msw. Roll off containers for recycling are usually enclosed and roll off containers are not normally used for collecting food scraps.

7. What specific reporting format does the state require for single stream recycling volumes?

Quarterly tonnage collection totals for each location served submitted to BGS.

8. We are not able to bid a per ton rate for small container service, because we can’t invoice off truck scales. We would propose to bid per pick up as we have done in the past. This would mean we would not submit pricing for TAB A on the Excel Spreadsheet.

Bids may indicate a per pick-up price . Attachment 7.8 has been modified to allow bidders to submit pricing by location address, per pick-up, as how it’s been done in the past, however, if a location is adding recyclable collecting and/or will be adding food scrap collection, then the Sate reserves the right to renegotiate the contract if there is a substantial amount of material removed from the waste stream.

9. If our containers are damaged as a result of the location, the site would be liable for repair or replacement cost. Is this acceptable?

More detail is needed to understand what is meant by “damage” and how the “location” would be a cause for that. It is the responsibility of the vendor to work with the state’s locations to find options for the site that allow for collection of trash and mandated recyclables without over extending space limits at each location and that is agreeable to both parties.

10. Under the Failure to Pick Up Clause, how would weather related delays be handled? This is common issue during the Winter months.

Paragraph 1.14 provides that the vendor is to contact the agency when unable to make a scheduled pick-up. The State understands the difficulties imposed by severe winter weather but the importance of contacting the supported Agency in a timely manner cannot be overemphasized.

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11. In order to provide the most efficient pricing and service, we would need to know what style container is required for each location that needs service (see 1.8). The state has a right to indicate if they want FEL or REL containers.

Unfortunately, at this point, we are unable to provide information about whether or not an existing location presently has a Front or Rear Load container. Provide your best pricing and container options for each area. State spaces are encouraged to assess their container needs as the amount of trash disposed changes with increased diversion of recyclables.

12. For roll-off compactor we would need to know ownership (of the compactor and/or receiver box) and we would need to know if the compactor was break-away or self-contained.

Under Tab-C, assume the compactors are 35 yarders and are not State owned. If there are additional pricing components, not listed in the Tab, please make note of them in your proposal.

13. We would request that the attachment 7.8 be sent over as an Excel Spreadsheet, so that we can add the per pick up pricing we are offering. We also needed to know what the shaded grey boxes indicated on the 7.8 attachment? Attachment 7.8 has been modified. See answer to number 8 above. Shaded areas indicate there is not a current requirement, at the given location, for that specific category of service.

14. All waste is not created equal: One office does not produce the same waste as let's say a prison...the RFP does not allow me to factor this point.

Use Attachment 7.8 which depicts the category, container size, and frequency of the particular location to be supported.

15. Container access: this RFP does not allow me to factor container access issues. One price is all I can provide anywhere in a given community (or an Interstate welcome center).

See response# 14 above.

16. I have never quoted solid waste/ recycling services by weight only? It is one of many factors considered.

See response# 14 above.

17. You require recycling containers to be the same size or larger as waste containers. Act 148 does not require this., it say's Should not Shall.

The RFP is able to request a level of service that is higher than the minimum requirements of state law. Refer to Attachment 7.8 for existing can size, frequency of collection, etc.

18. You want haulers to monitor waste volumes in trash containers and right size. This should hold true for recycling as well?

Yes, the vendor is expected to work with the location it is providing containers to and to provide the level of service that is needed for all material streams collected.

19. On this bid sheet it is across the board yardage for the towns instead of individual locations such as Court House or State police barracks in Brattleboro. The new way would only allow one vendor in the past we have been able to bid locations specifically to retain them as accounts.

See response# 14 above.

20. Do we need to report all weights for all materials every month, or only Military location as noted in Tab D? All locations for each of the material streams collected. This can be provided on a quarterly basis.

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21. Please clarify Tab A. Do we need to weigh each container and then provide a bill based on bid price weight? Or do we estimate the weight of a container, establish our per ton charge multiplied the weight and bill that amount every month?

See related questions and responses above pertaining to pricing based on a per pick-up cost.

22. Furthermore, if we are to weigh the material for each container and bill accordingly we would have to do each individual site and then dump. This would need to be done to keep billing separate between locations. If this is the case your cost will be around five to ten times current rates because of the travel time and loss of efficiency of doing the dumpsters on a route...saying nothing of the fuel being used.

To meet state goals of reducing waste and increasing diversion rates, offices/sites receiving collection service should be provided with tonnage estimates to track progress towards meeting these reduction and diversion goals.

23. There is a statement in 1.1 that food waste does not start until 2017. This is not true for generators of one ton per week and larger. They need to start this July 1st.

All certified transporters are not needed to provide services for collection of food scraps until 2017. Generators of certain tonnages only need to divert if there is a permitted facility within 20 miles that is capable of accepting the material. In addition to that, not every state space will fall into the larger generator categories.

24. Due to the complexity of the bid and lack of clarity to the bidders I feel you need to delay this bid from being completed and extend the deadline. Much work needs to be done here to ensure reasonable prices and achieving desired outcome.

See response# 1 above.

25. Pursuant to our phone conversation earlier this morning, this e-mail is in regards to the State's request to our companies being able to charging them "per ton" on recycling. This task is virtually impossible, for just about any hauler not only are scales unpredictable due to the calibrations being off at times and the accuracy of the scales can be " off " due to a bump in the road thus charging the State more money than necessary. The way our company is doing the recycling now is by tip, we have averaged the buildings out by yards and that seems to work very well. Many times we have gone to the Hubbard building and have had an overflow of cardboard and shredded paper along with bottles and other recyclable items in excess of at least 5 yards of material which is well beyond what we had figured when we had quoted the State a year ago. However, the next week when we show up, the amount is in half so it figures to a wash in the long run. This particular building is averaging anywhere from 3-5 yards per week, which is what we figured. The Court House our other stop for the State has averaged 1 1/2 yards and has not gone above that average yet unless it is a big delivery day, which is usually on an every three month average. There are contaminants in just about every load but that is to be expected but not a chargeable occurrence as it is not enough weight to amount to anything. It is usually plastic bags. Or hard cover books, Scales overall for recycling in layman's terms would not make sense in anyway. We would not be able to do our jobs to the best of our ability at all and it would be a tremendous increase to the States bill overall.

See responses above about charging based on per pickup. Recommend still charging per pick up while tracking estimated tonnages collected and providing total tonnages to BGS on a quarterly basis. The States reserves the right to renegotiate in the event that a large amount of material is diverted thus changing the frequency of pick-ups needed or the size of the dumpsters utilized.

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26. Another note that I would like to address in this e-mail, the RFP states that we have to supply our own totes, cans, bins and so forth for over a year we have been servicing two locations in Newport, VT the Court house, and the Hubbard building we are hoping to bid on more this time around. Be that as it may, we have been fortunate and the State had provided their own bins and worked with us in this area. Is this not going to be the way anymore ? Are we going to have to figure out something different as this is the way we have been able to keep our prices low.

The state may provide their own totes in some cases and this is at the state's discretion. The state is willing to discuss with bidders the various options. It is desired that the hauler provide the containers but is not required. Please address the current locations where the state has provided containers and the state can respond with whether or not this will still be an option.

27. I just got the email for this proposal it was sent to an old email, with the change in format this year the closing date on the bid is to short for me and probably for a lot of other bid participants really could use more time to prepare.

See response# 1 above.

28. One of my major concerns on this bid format is the fact it is to be charged out in tons. State of Vermont Act 148 designates a pay for volume method for residential users volume rather than weight. The rearload containers in my area have been priced at a per yard pickup fee price structure which goes along with the principals of Act 148. Not all waste haulers have on board truck scales to get an idea of the weight it would be an estimate.

Pricing can be provided on a per pick-up basis. Again, please see above. Weight estimates can come from tipping receipts at the landfill, transfer, MRF, etc. There is not an expectation that haulers have on board truck scales.

29. When we hauled the roll offs for the Military we reported monthly to the Military contact, but reading the RFP (section 1.28) I got the impression that we will have to do similar reporting for all locations? Is that correct.

Yes. See answer to question #22.

30. Tab A reads that we must weigh each container and then provide pricing based on weight? This will be very hard for any hauler to do and it will add a great deal of expense to the overall contract. We have been doing this for on call service for the Air Guard and the National Guard and as you can see from the invoicing this adds hours to the overall route and this is only for 2 locations. If separate billing and weights need to be done for each location you would see a large increase in the overall pricing.

See other related questions and relevant answers.

31. The new state laws require food waste to be collect from any generator over 104 tons per year on July 1, 2014, 52 tons per year on July 1, 2015, 26 tons per year on July 1, 2016.

The RFP may request additional services than the minimum required by law.

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32. In Tab D reads that C &D waste must be taken to a recycling facility before final disposal. We would strongly encourage you to include certificate recycling facility. The statement should read, C &D Waste must be taken to a CERTIFIED C & D recycling facility.

That is implied in the RFP. All facilities where materials are destined for additional processing must be permitted with the overseeing government agency.

33. Also, in Tab D it reads that clean wood should be transported to McNeil Station. As you know, recycling clean wood is better for the environment and better for Vermont rather than burning. We would encourage you to state that Clean wood should be brought to a certified C&D recycling facility to be recycled.

When feasible, recycling clean wood through a permitted recycling facility is preferred.

34. These are just a few other our thoughts on the RFP. We would encourage you to extend the comment phase as well as the due date of the bid to clarify some of these points.

See response# 1 above.