Town of Los Altos Hills
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SVCE Community Decarb Engagement Grant Application

Due 4th November 2023

OVERVIEW

The Town of Los Altos Hills is applying for a $70,000 grant from Silicon Valley Clean Energy for a decarbonization community engagement project to educate the public on a variety of electrification, renewable energy, EV, battery storage, microgrid and load shifting technologies already in use or soon to be implemented at our Town Hall facility on Fremont Road. The funds will be used to design & build an educational kiosk and matching website explaining the benefits (and potential challenges) of these technologies, and decarbonizing buildings in general, and will be available to the entire SVCE community.

GOALS

1. Encourage understanding and adoption of advanced decarbonization strategies by residents, architects, students, and the community at large.
2. Design & deploy an attractive and informational learning center with both physical and virtual components to convey advanced methods used at the Los Altos Hills town hall complex to achieve building decarbonization with excellent resiliency during outages.
3. Leverage existing Los Altos Hills decarbonization projects, including the existing solar PV array, heat pumps, stationary BESS, backup generator, and microgrid controls: this grant helps the town publicize these existing projects & technologies to broaden their impact.

SPECIFICATIONS

The sections below clarify different aspects of our proposal, addressing the different requirements identified in the grant description.

Project Lead

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Project Description

We will use SVCE grant funds to design and implement an informational learning resource with both physical and virtual (web based) components to describe and promote the advanced methods used at the Los Altos Hills town hall complex (including solar PV, batteries, heat pumps, microgrid controls[1], etc) to achieve building decarbonization and resiliency during power outages.

We propose a physical kiosk or other outdoor site with easy access by the public but sheltered from the elements. This physical site will include both static infographics and touch screen displays. We propose the kiosk be solar powered like the example at right (image source here; another option here).

For broader access we will provide mirrored content in an online set of web pages linked from the town's primary website (https://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov).

The content will describe the various decarbonization technologies in use by the town hall, including technologies such as solar PV, heat pumps, induction cooktops, battery storage and microgrid controls. Equivalent technologies available for residential buildings will also be described. The environmental

[1] Software & hardware used to control the flow of electricity from different sources (solar PV, battery storage, backup generator, the grid) to different loads (all loads, or a subset of critical loads) during normal operation and/or during power outages like PSPS events.

benefits of each of these technologies will be demonstrated in the context of the town's greenhouse gas reduction targets and the progress made toward achieving those targets via the 2021 Climate Action Plan.

The displays will provide system component size & characteristics (e.g. kW of PV, kWh of storage) together with real time monitoring data showing energy flows (e.g. current power output of PV system and current demand by buildings). This data will be available for public viewing 24x7 both onsite (e.g. via a touchscreen at the informational kiosk) and online via the town's website.

A description of SVCE's involvement – and their critical role as supplier of clean renewable energy for town hall and our residents – will also be included.

Project Budget

Project budget estimates are shown below, including the total cost for the electrification project and source of other funds.

LAH Project Budget

Line Item Description	SVCE Grant Funding	Other Funding*	Total Cost (Line B + C)
Project Management (LAH Town Staff)	$ -	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
Design of Kiosk and Web pages	$ 20,000.00	$ -	$ 20,000.00
Content Review & Approval	$ -	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00
Solar Powered Kiosk	$ 15,000.00	$ -	$ 15,000.00
Construction & Implementation	$ 35,000.00	$ -	$ 35,000.00
Totals	$ 70,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 85,000.00

LAH Project Funding Sources

The total of Other Funding Sources will match Total Other Funding Contribution above.

Source of Other Funding	Monetary	In-Kind $ Value	Total Contribution of Funding from Other Sources (Line B + C)	Funding Secured (yes/no)
LAH Funds	$ 5,000.00	$ -	$ 5,000.00	Yes
LAH Committee Volunteers	$ -	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	Yes
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Totals Other Funding Contributions	$ 5,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 15,000.00	

Project Timeline

- **Award Announcement by SVCE:** December 5, 2022
- **Grant Agreement Established with SVCE:** January 2023. (Sample grant agreement provided by SVCE here.)
- **Release of detailed RFP to qualified bidders:** April 2023
- **Agreement with selected contractor:** July 2023
- **Design complete:** October 2023
- **Implementation complete:** February 2024
- **Deadline for Spending Grant Funds:** December 31, 2024

Responses to Grant Selection Criteria

SVCE grant criteria and description of application fulfillment of each:

1. Value as a decarbonization engagement project in terms of project scope and scale and anticipated breadth and/or depth of community coverage (30 points)
    a. Los Altos Hills has been a leader on decarbonization efforts since the first town hall solar PV system was installed in 2005 and culminating in our advanced stationary BESS/microgrid project now nearing completion. This project will leverage those existing projects to promote others to adopt similar technologies.
    b. By providing both an onsite and online resource we can share our advanced decarbonization project details with the entire SVCE community, including residents, schools, contractors, etc.
    c. The resulting educational kiosk and web page will be promoted through various forms of city outreach, for example: the City Manager's report, the town newsletter, the town website, at various town events, at the planning desk, and Nextdoor posting(s).
2. Appropriateness of the proposed project message as it relates to decarbonization (10 points);
    a. The project will cover all aspects of decarbonization, including clean renewable energy generation (PV), use of efficient electric options (EVs, heat pumps, induction cooktops), battery storage (both stationary and V2G), and load shifting strategies to address the California "duck curve".

b. Few other cities or towns have made as much progress on all these aspects of decarbonization. This project will help inform and encourage other municipalities and residents to follow quickly.

3. Quality of project implementation plan in terms of overall coherence and practicality of approach (20 points) and proposed evaluation and measurement methods (10 points);

    a. Los Altos Hills has an excellent track record of completing similar projects, including our LEED-certified horse barn, town hall solar project, TEDx Los Altos Hills, and our latest stationary BESS/microgrid project.

    b. Our Town Hall has been the site of a number of educational and public art displays, including historical displays, resident-made artwork, and a real-time solar monitoring system.

    c. Once the grant is approved we will reach out to appropriate contractors who can provide detailed help on design and implementation.

4. Likelihood of completion during grant time period (10 points);

    a. Two full years will be more than sufficient to complete the project. The basic workplan will include these main steps, some of which may overlap:

        i. One approved, town staff & select committees will finalize the key goals and objectives of the project (estimated 3 months maximum duration).

        ii. Town staff will contract with appropriate partner(s) via a formal RFP process (3 months max).

        iii. Contractor(s), staff and committees will iIterate on content development and hardware selection (3 months max).

        iv. Staff will oversee purchase & installation of required equipment and updates to web content (3 months max).

        v. Staff and committees will test equipment and web content and prepare for public launch (3 months max).

        vi. Staff and committees will develop and schedule maintenance plan (2 months max).

5. History of meeting grant deliverables, and/or meeting SVCE outreach expectations (10 points); and

a. Los Altos Hills staff worked closely with the SVCE MAWG to complete our first REACH code. We expect this project to be similar, in that it will require cooperation between town staff, committee members, and outside consultants.

b. SVCE staff have presented at a number of our public town meetings and have attended many of our community events, so SVCE is aware of our outreach ability.

c. The town is actively engaged in a community grant “Town Hall Backup Power Resiliency Capital Project” begun in October 2021 and partially funded by a grant from SVCE. The project is being managed by Cody Einfalt and we selected Syserco as the implementation contractors. The project is on schedule and on budget. Sample weekly project report here.

6. Diversity of approaches and audiences across SVCE territory when considering all applications received (10 points).

    a. We believe the leading-edge nature of our project, leveraging advanced decarbonization projects, will be unique.

    b. We believe this could be a resource for all SVCE stakeholders, demonstrating and describing technologies which can be adopted for other municipal buildings and also by homes throughout the SVCE territory.

END