# Solar Co-op RFP Response Template

## Part 1 of 2 – Template Responses

Please answer each of the following questions in this document.

|  |
| --- |
| [Company name] |
| Primary contact name |  |
| Primary contact phone |  |
| Primary contact email |  |
| **Competitive Pricing** |
| 1. | Provide the base $/W price the Proposer will offer to all solar co-op members. Please note if there is a minimum solar array system size. | * $#/W – Module X w/ Inverter Y
* Slate roofs supported?
* Ground mount & trenching costs?

***[These are EXAMPLES below – Add/Remove as needed]**** $/W - Small System Adder for Systems < 3kW DC (min. 2kW)
* $ - Electrical Service Upgrade (flat)
* $/W - Interior conduit run
* $/W - Flat Roof Installation
 |
| 2. | List any optional upgrades to solar array system components. **NOTE:** Some co-op members have expressed interest in squirrel guards, as well as the SMA Sunny Boy TL inverters that provide a "secure power supply" during a power outage. | ***[These are EXAMPLES – Add/Remove as needed]**** $#/W – High efficiency module
* $#/W – American made
* $#/W – Microinverters/optimizers
* $ - Squirrel guards and snow guards
 |
| 3. | Please quantify Proposer’s experience with batteries (number of commercial and/or residential PV + storage installations).* What is your experience with retrofitting existing solar systems to incorporate battery storage systems?

**NOTE:** See Battery System Addendum table below for additional storage questions | * Experience with grid-tied PV-based battery systems
* Retrofit experience
 |
| 4. | Will you install an outlet for a Level 2 electric vehicle charger(s)? Do you sell chargers? | * [YES/NO]
* Specify sample pricing of install and/ or charger.
 |
| 5. | Will you offer loan financing to co-op members? | * [YES/NO]
* Specify loan products and applicable terms
 |
| 6. | Will you offer a Power Purchase Agreement or lease to co-op members? | * [YES/NO]
* Specify starting $/kWh price, percentage escalator, length of the contract, etc.
 |
| 7. | Will you process all incentives on behalf of the co-op member? | * [YES/NO/NA]
 |
| 8. | Will you register the co-op members’ systems with appropriate entities (public service commissions, PJM GATS, etc.) for the sale of SRECS? Who will take ownership of system SRECs? NOTE: In markets where SRECs are not available please mark “N/A”. | * [YES/NO]
* Who will own SRECs?

***NOTE:*** ***If you are bidding in a state without an SREC market leave this blank***(SREC = Solar Renewable Energy Credit) |
| 9. | Will there be any additional charges for securing historic permits, HOA approvals, or other permits or approvals that go above and beyond normal permitting requirements? **NOTE**: We recognize historic permitting incurs additional cost and want to ensure your costs are covered. If additional charges are required be sure they are listed in the added cost section. | * [YES/NO]
* Explain [optional]
 |
| 10. | Will Proposer be able to remove and reinstall the original PV installation should a co-op member require roof repairs or replacement at a later date independent of Proposer’s PV installation? If so, please specify at what cost to the co-op member.  | * [YES/NO]
* Cost
* Duration available
 |
| 11. | What are your standard milestone payments for a signed contract? **NOTE**: The Selection Committee will look favorably on milestone payments that include a final payment after receipt of permission to operate from the utility. | ***[These are EXAMPLES – Add/Remove as needed]**** X % at milestone 1 (example: contract signing)
* X % at milestone 2 (example: equipment order)
* X % at milestone 3 (example: inspection)
* X % at final interconnection (permission to operate)
 |
|  **System Quality & Sourcing** |
| 12. | List all model names/numbers of equipment and components Proposer intends to install including panels, roof attachments, type of racking system, and type of inverters. If you offer multiple options for panels (i.e. American-made vs. not American-made), inverters (i.e., central inverters vs. micro-inverters) or roof attachments/racking, please specify components and attachment methods used for each option. | ***[These are EXAMPLES – Add/Remove as needed]**** American Made Module X, Model #, Details, Made in USA
* High Efficiency Module Y, Model #, Details, Made in China
* Inverter Z, Model #, Details
* Racking System Q, Details
 |
| 13. | Describe the equipment and methodology used to weatherproof all roof attachment points made during installation. | ***[These are EXAMPLES – Add/Remove as needed]**** Flashings
* Pitch pockets (flat roof)

NOTE: If you are using a flat roof parapet mounting system please describe in detail how parapet attachment points are weatherproofed. |
| 14**.** | Will installed solar array include monitoring and at what level (system wide or panel level)? How much will monitoring services cost?**NOTE:** If monitoring charges are not included in the base pricing, be sure they are listed in the added cost section. | * [YES/NO]
* Cost
 |
| 15. | Do you have a long-standing relationship with any included equipment manufacturers or distributors? | * [YES/NO]
* Details
 |
| **Proposer Experience & Qualifications** |
| 16. | Provide three (3) customer references and their contact information from customers who worked with Proposer during the installation phase. At least one (1) customer reference must have worked with Proposer for a battery storage installation. |  |
| 17. | Do you offer roofing services in house? If so, are they sub-contracted? How long have you offered roofing services? If you partner with roofing companies, please provide roofing company’s information and experience with roof repair/replacement in conjunction with solar PV installation.  | * In-house roofing services? - [YES/NO]
	+ Sub-contracted? - [YES/NO]
* Roofing Partner - [YES/NO]
	+ Details
	+ Experience
 |
| 18. | Please describe the company’s key personnel and certifications **who will be working directly on this co-op and an estimate of time to complete work**. Also describe your staffing plan and provide staff names for key roles.**NOTE:** Our goal is to understand how your organization will staff and coordinate a large group of leads in a short time frame. | * Do you have a backlog of work, or can you start working on this co-op immediately?
* When do you anticipate having all site visits and proposals completed for the group at its current size?
* How soon after receiving a customer’s signed contract will the physical installation begin?
* Key company personnel
* Key certifications and who holds them (NABCEP, RISE, Professional Engineer (PE), Master Electrician’s License, other State-required licenses)
* Number of full-time employees dedicated to co-op
* Number of employees working part-time on co-op
* Staffing Plan & contact info for each staff member:
	+ Customer communication
	+ Solar United Neighbors communication (weekly calls and Salesforce CRM database updates)
	+ Site visit scheduling
	+ Site visits
	+ Installation
	+ Administrative work
 |
| 19. | Please provide company information & experience. **NOTE:** Please provide answers to ALL the bulleted points. | * Number of years in business?
* Number of years installing PV systems?
* Are you a B-Corp or other social benefit organization?
* Number of employees?
* How many new employees have been hired in the last year?
* Are you a member of your local SEIA chapter or other professional organizations?
* Amount of general liability insurance?
* Amount of worker’s compensation insurance?
* State and local licensing numbers
* Total number of installs completed in the last two years
* Number of installs in the jurisdictions applicable for this group
* Additional information on the company’s experience, standing and stability
 |
| **System Warranty** |
| 20. | Describe production and product warranties provided for system modules.NOTE: Refer to the “Technical Requirements” section of the RFP | ***[These are EXAMPLES – Add/Remove as needed]**** Module model X
	+ Product warranty = 10 years on all defects
	+ Production warranty = 25-year linear warranty to 80% of rated capacity
 |
| 21. | Describe warranty provided for inverters and options for extending the warranty. | ***[These are EXAMPLES – Add/Remove as needed]**** Inverter Y
	+ Product warranty = 10 years
	+ Extendable to 20 years
 |
| 22. | Describe product warranties provided for system batteries. | ***[These are EXAMPLES – Add/Remove as needed]**** Battery model X
	+ Product warranty = 5 years on all defects
	+ Extendable?
 |
| 23. | Describe warranty provided for Proposer’s labor and workmanship. Give details for roof penetration warranty.**NOTE**: please indicate whether Proposer offers an electrical production/performance guarantee. | ***[These are EXAMPLES – Add/Remove as needed]**** Installation warranty = 10 years on all workmanship including all roof penetrations
	+ Extendable to 20 years (see pricing sheet)
* Terms of performance guarantee (if applicable)
 |
| **Social & Community Benefits** |
| 24. | Provide location of your nearest office |  |
| 25. | Please answer each question at right with respect to your inclusion, diversity and fair wage practices.  | * Do you make any significant efforts to offer employment opportunities to women, minorities, residents from unemployed or underemployed communities, including qualified individuals with criminal records?
* Please specify what policies you have in place to ensure hiring on the basis of merit and in accordance with fair employment laws.\*
* What percentage of your staff are people of color?
* What percentage of your staff are women?
* Do you pay a living wage for all employees for the county where your closest office is based? (Category: “1 Adult”, source: http://livingwage.mit.edu/ )
 |
| 26. | Please describe any commitments you have made or are willing to make regarding local engagement if you are chosen to service the group. For example, companies previously chosen offered job internships, solar job training programs, donated to local nonprofits and planted trees. etc.  |  |
| \**In accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the selected installer shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin or sex. In accordance with U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) guidance on Title VII, the selected installer shall not have a blanket policy against hiring individuals who may have convictions on their record but shall have in place a fair and equitable hiring/employment policy that takes all relevant factors into account when making employment decisions.* |

**Battery System Addendum Questions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.  | List all model names/numbers of equipment and components Proposer intends to offer and price. This includes all types of batteries and inverters installer intends to offer to co-op members. | ***[These are EXAMPLES – Add/Remove as needed]**** Battery X, Model #, Details (chemistry), price ($/kWh)
* SolarEdge, Model #, Details (chemistry), price
* SMA, Model #, Details, price
* Tabuchi America, Model #, Details, price
* Magnum, Model #, Details, price
* Outback, Model #, Details, price
* Xantrex, Model #, Details, price
* LiFePO4 chemistry option
* Inverter Z, Model #, Details, price
 |
| 2.  | Will you be able to retrofit existing solar systems to add battery storage? If yes, are there any additional costs to retrofit systems not originally installed with battery ready wiring/inverters? If so, please specify equipment and breakout cost to the best of your ability. | ***[These are EXAMPLES – Add/Remove as needed]**** Installation labor cost
* Additional disconnect
* Panel Upgrade
* Inverter swap
* Recycle value of inverter if inverter swap is needed
* Can battery systems be interfaced with existing monitoring software of solar system?
 |
| 3. | Will your work affect warranties if there is an existing solar array on site? | * YES/NO

Explanation. |
| 4.  | Will the battery installation include an energy management/monitoring system? If so, what is the cost?- If applicable, will the Battery Management System (BMS) demonstrate that the batteries are charged 100% by onsite solar for solar ITC tax credit eligibility? | * [YES/NO]
* Energy management system cost (one-time or recurring?)
 |
| 5.  | Does the installer or supplier have a battery storage presale checklist to offer the customer? (in order to set expectations and identify critical loads and electrical devices that will be run by batteries). Please also include any related examples as an attachment. | * [YES/NO]
 |
| 6.  | Do you expect any delays in sourcing any of the storage equipment you’re offering? If so, what equipment and at what timeline?Replacement Procedure: With future upgrades and battery system component replacements, will system owner have any foreseeable issue sourcing an individual component? i.e. are there components that can only be replaced by one supplier? | * [YES/NO]
* Details
 |

## Part 2 of 2 – Additional Required Documentation

In addition to submitting this completed template (in Word), please also provide a **SINGLE** PDF that includes the following documentation:

* Spec sheets for each module and inverter type specified
* Copy of your template sales proposal (if different than your contract)
* Copy of your standard contract agreement
* Copy of general liability insurance
* Copy of applicable jurisdiction licensing certificate(s)
* Copy of your standard contract language covering your installation and roof penetration warranties

Optional content to be included at the end of the document:

* Any additional business promotional information, warranties, performance information, product certifications, installation examples, etc.