

DOCKETED

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GFO Workshop Comments

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

March 15, 2024



Energy Pathways

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit MS-4
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket 22-RENEW-01 Microgrid Resources Coalition Comments on the Distributed Electricity Backup Assets (DEBA) Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) Draft Solicitation

I. Introduction

Energy Pathways, LLC is an onsite energy consulting company representing an existing Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) facility in California. New CHP onsite would serve the facility load until 4:00pm and then available to serve the grid from 4:00pm to 10:00pm under the DEBA program.

II. Evaluation Criteria Scoring Questions:

1. Reliability scoring– Does synchronous generation CHP, with its capability to provide reactive power and offer grid support services such as voltage support and frequency reserve, merit a higher reliability rating? Ask by - Energy Pathways
2. Clean Energy scoring - Could Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems integrated with Carbon Capture and Reuse, targeted at promoting vegetable plant growth in greenhouses, be considered for a higher environmental ranking under the Clean Energy and Climate Goals category, given their potential to mitigate carbon emissions and facilitate sustainable agriculture practices while supporting the grid?
3. Would DEBA energy projects supporting Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) which offer stable year-round farming job opportunities capable of uplifting communities out of poverty, be eligible for additional points, even if they are not situated within a Disadvantaged Community?
4. Would an energy project that addresses water conservation, land conservation, food waste reduction, and energy efficiency initiatives qualify for higher ratings under both the Clean Energy and Community Resilience categories due to its comprehensive approach to fostering sustainability and resilience within communities?
5. If a project is dedicated to fostering sustainable food production, could it potentially achieve higher points and scoring by significantly reducing fossil fuel consumption from long-distance trucking, while also utilizing Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems for electricity generation, and incorporating carbon capture technology to leverage CO2 processes within greenhouses to enhance plant growth?
6. How receptive is the [Commission to implementing load management strategies, such as enabling greenhouses to activate lighting during periods of excess power on the grid? Would integrating such load management capabilities contribute to additional resilience or reliability points for the infrastructure?

III. Conclusion

Energy Pathways appreciates the opportunity to ask questions on the Commission's GFO draft solicitation and workshop and looks forward to continued collaboration with the Commission on DER deployment to improve energy system.

Best Regards,
Carol Denning

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