**NOTE: Applicants are not required to submit this Attachment with their Application. This Attachment intends to guide Applicants on activities related to Community Engagement, Benefits, and Impacts during application development. Users of this Attachment are also encouraged to consider and align with guidelines provided by ARCHES[[1]](#footnote-2) and DOE.[[2]](#footnote-3)**

**The Application’s Project Narrative (Attachment 3) must address Scoring Criterion 9’s Benefits to Communities and Localized Health Impacts and:**

* Provide details on the Applicant’s actions and preliminary outcomes in engaging with local communities, actively listening to their feedback, and incorporating their input into the proposed project prior to submitting the application for this solicitation. This may include a summary of topics discussed, action items, and next steps for the project. Some examples of community engagement include holding public workshops or focus groups, speaking with community leaders or organizations, conducting community surveys, providing language services, and mailing educational pamphlets to residents translated into languages accessible to local communities.
* Describe the intentional steps the project team has taken in conversation with community stakeholders to ensure that the proposed project does not bring any unintended adverse effects upon local communities, including steps taken to eliminate any hydrogen leakage and to site hydrogen infrastructure away from homes, schools, parks, and hospitals.
* Describe local community support and concern for the proposed project. The evaluation committee will award points to Applicants with letters of support from local governments, tribes, air quality districts, community-based organizations, environmental justice organizations, or other community partners that demonstrate their belief that the proposed project will lead to increased equity and is both feasible and commercially viable in the identified communities. Refer to Section IV.G Scoring Criterion 9.3 for more information.
* Provide their methodology on how their project determined the economic, environmental, and other impacts on communities before and after equipment installation. This may include but is not limited to, calculations, assumptions, and baselines used. This will be evaluated under this solicitation’s scoring criteria.
* Discuss how the project will help increase access to clean energy technologies. This should consider the impacts beyond the immediate community of the demonstration.

**The project must submit Pre- and Post-installation and End-of-Project Community Benefits and Impact Reports as part of a Technical Task(s) in the Scope of Work (Attachment 5) and Project Schedule (Attachment 6). These reports should accomplish the following:**

* Identify key indicators that measure the project's community benefits and localized health impacts. For example:
  + Quantitative indicators can include environmental and economic impacts such as workforce development, employment rates, income levels, property value, or projected decreases in hospital visits related to pollution exposure.
  + Qualitative indicators can consist of survey results reporting on social impacts, community satisfaction, changes in quality of life, and access to job opportunities.
  + Applicants may consider using energy equity and health-related indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0[[3]](#footnote-4) or consider referencing example benefits from the Department of Energy’s General Guidance for Justice40 Implementation[[4]](#footnote-5) or the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council’s implementation guides for Justice40.[[5]](#footnote-6) Table 1 shows examples of indicators and metrics.
* Summarize and analyze baseline data on the identified indicators before equipment installation.
* Summarize and analyze indicator data collected after the system has reached stable operation.
* Establish a plan for data collection that addresses the methods used for and frequency of data collection. This can include the use of environmental sensors and community engagement methods such as surveys, workshops, and focus groups.
* List co-benefits such as water and energy savings, decreased pollution, and increased jobs.

**Table 1: Examples of Community Benefits, Impacts, and Metrics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Metric and Units** |
| Community Outreach and Engagement | * Identify key community stakeholders and engage them in the planning process through focus groups, surveys, and other methods to gather their input and feedback and incorporate it in the proposed project. * Number of stakeholder events, participants, and dollars spent to engage with organizations and residents. * Dollar value [$] or number of hours spent on technical assistance. |
| Training and Workforce Development | * Number of job training programs within community(ies). * Participation in job training with job placement and hiring. This includes the free and fair chance to join a union or bargaining unit. * Number of jobs created, including classifications and wages; number of trainings held. |
| Increase clean energy enterprise creation and contracting for minority or disadvantaged businesses in energy justice communities | Number of contracts and/or dollar value [$] awarded to diverse businesses. |
| Decrease energy burden | Dollars saved [$] in energy expenditures, energy saved [MWh[[6]](#footnote-7) or MMBtu[[7]](#footnote-8)] or reduction in fuel consumption [GGe[[8]](#footnote-9)] because of technology adoption. |
| Building Community Capacity | * Money directly invested to communities (park, grants, scholarships) * Dollar value [$] and number of clean energy assets owned by the community |
| Decrease Neighborhood Environmental Impacts | * Amount of avoided air pollutants such as: * Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions [MTCO2e][[9]](#footnote-10) * Hydrogen leakage [percentage or grams of hydrogen loss] * Emission of pollutants such as carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM), trace contaminants, nitrogen oxides (NOx), and hydrocarbons [µg/m3][[10]](#footnote-11) * Facility solid waste [lb./sq ft/day][[11]](#footnote-12) * Remediation impacts on surface water, groundwater, and soil. |
| Increase Energy Resiliency | * Number and size (MWh) of community resilience infrastructure deployed * Increase reliability infrastructure |
| Increase Community Access to Renewable and Clean Energy | * Clean energy resources [MWh] adopted |

**The project must include community engagement as a Technical Task in the Scope of Work (Attachment 5). The Community Benefits and Engagement task should aim to inform, educate, and engage local community members and stakeholders in the development process. The task must incorporate plans to accomplish the following objectives:**

* Develop outreach materials to help inform and educate community members and local government(s) about the proposed project. These materials could include brochures, fact sheets, newsletters, and other information that explain the benefits of the project and potential impacts on the community in ways accessible to the community. This may mean employing less technical language or providing translations when warranted.
* Identify key community stakeholders and engage them in the planning process through focus groups, surveys, and other methods to gather their input and feedback on the proposed project. Stakeholders could include CBOs and local governments & businesses.
* Develop a clear and concise communication strategy that outlines the goals, objectives, and methods of engagement. This strategy should outline the channels of communication used during the project and identify key stakeholders and target audiences.
* Hold public meetings, in-person and virtually, to provide information about the proposed project. These meetings should include opportunities for community members and representatives to ask questions and provide feedback on the clean hydrogen project.
* Use social media and community platforms to communicate with the community and provide updates on the project. Projects can use these platforms to provide project updates, answer questions, and provide information about upcoming events and meetings.
* Identify key community stakeholders and engage them in the planning process through focus groups, surveys, and other methods to gather their input and feedback and incorporate it in the proposed project. This should include regular updates on project milestones, stakeholder engagement efforts, and feedback mechanisms. Track and report on the effectiveness of the community engagement plan to the community.
* Provide pre-installation, post-installation, and end-of-project community engagement reports that give CEC staff an overview of the community engagement and outreach efforts undertaken so far in the projects, summarize the results of engagement activities, and discuss the concerns, feedback, and suggestions from community members.

1. ARCHES Community Benefits Plan. Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems (ARCHES). https://archesh2.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/ARCHES\_CB\_PROPOSAL\_for-release.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Community Benefits Plan. U.S. Department of Energy. https://www.energy.gov/infrastructure/about-community-benefits-plans. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 is available at  https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Department of Energy’s General Guidance for Justice40 Implementation Version 1.1 https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/DOE%20Justice40%20General%20Guidance%2072523.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. M-21-28, Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. MWh, megawatt hours. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. MMBtu, standard unit of measurement for gas, one million British Thermal Units. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. GGe, gasoline gallon equivalent. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. MTCO2e, metric tons or tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. µg/m3 means one microgram of pollutant per one cubic meter of air. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. lb./sq ft/day means the pound per square foot per day. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)