



Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a Strategic Energy Sovereignty Plan

Issued by: Squaxin Island Tribe Planning and Community Development Department

RFP Title: Strategic Energy Sovereignty Plan

Issue Date: September 2nd 2026

Proposal Due Date: September 23rd 2026, by 4:00PM PST

1. Project Overview

The Squaxin Island Tribe Planning and Community Development Department is looking to establish a shortlist of qualified candidates to assist in developing a Strategic Energy Sovereignty Plan (SESP). The selected candidate will work closely with Tribal staff, leadership, and community members to develop an energy plan rooted in Tribal Sovereignty, reflecting the Squaxin Island Tribe's values, priorities, and current and future energy goals. This plan should include energy assessments, community engagement, onsite workshops, technical analysis, and development of a final written SESP. The Scope of Work should also include identifying and evaluating alternative ideas and solutions that are feasible to the Tribe's bioregional landscape.

2. Background

Energy Sovereignty is a high priority for the Squaxin Island Tribe. The Tribe intends to reduce reliance on external utilities, strengthen energy resilience, support sustainable development, and create long-term pathways for clean, reliable, and affordable energy. A comprehensive Strategic Energy Sovereignty Plan will provide a roadmap to assess current

conditions, evaluate renewable energy opportunities, address vulnerabilities, and create long-term strategies for energy resilience and sovereignty.

3. Preferred Skills or Knowledge

The ideal firm or consulting team will demonstrate deep expertise in the following areas:

- Tribal-focused energy planning
- Renewable energy technical expertise
- Energy resilience and microgrid planning
- Natural gas assessment & feasibility
- Experience working with Tribal Utilities
- Workforce development & job training
- Community engagement & facilitation

4. Proposal Requirements

To be considered, responses must include the following components:

- Cover letter
- Qualifications and Tribal experience
- Project Approach
- Detailed work plan and methodology aligned with the Scope of Work
- Schedule and timeline
- References for similar Tribal work
- Example(s) of previous Strategic Energy or sovereignty-related plans
- Identification of firm status as a certified minority-, woman-, or veteran-owned business (if applicable).
- Statement asserting any claim for Native American Preference, including supporting documentation.

(Note: Do not include a budget or cost proposal. This is a qualifications-based selection. Final costs will be negotiated with the selected firm.)

5. Evaluation and Scoring

Proposals will be reviewed and scored by a selection committee based on the following 100-point criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Max Points
Qualifications & Tribal Experience: Demonstrated experience with Tribal-focused energy planning, working with Tribal utilities, and examples of similar plans.	35
Technical Expertise: Depth of knowledge in renewable energy, energy resilience, microgrid planning, and natural gas assessment.	35
Project Approach & Methodology: Clarity of the work plan, alignment with the Tribe's goals, and strategies for community engagement and workforce development.	20
Schedule & Capacity: Feasibility of the proposed timeline and the firm's capacity to meet critical deadlines.	10
Total Base Points	100

6. Project Schedule

Milestone	Date
RFQ Issued	September 2nd 2026
Deadline for Questions	September 16th 2026
Proposals Due	September 23rd 2026
Contract Award (Expected)	October 14th 2026

7. Native American Preference Policy

Preference will be given to qualified Indian Owned Enterprises in the evaluation of proposals. Because this selection is based on qualifications rather than cost, a firm demonstrating valid certification as an Indian Owned Enterprise will receive an additional **10 bonus points** applied to their total evaluation score. To qualify, applicants must assert a claim for tribal preference in their proposal and provide supporting documentation.

8. Grant Compliance and Requirements

This project is funded through the Washington State Department of Commerce Washington Tribal Climate Resilience Grant Program. The selected consultant must comply with the following mandatory grant flow-down requirements:

- **Insurance Requirements:** The consultant must carry and maintain Commercial General Liability (\$1,000,000/occurrence), Automobile Liability (\$1,000,000/occurrence), and Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions (\$1,000,000/occurrence).
- **Nondiscrimination:** The consultant shall not discriminate in accordance with RCW 49.60.530(3).
- **Subcontractor Data Collection:** The consultant must cooperate with data collection reporting regarding minority-owned, woman-owned, and veteran-owned business participation.
- **Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Branding:** All resulting plans, public information materials, and reports must include the official CCA logo *[Insert Logo Here prior to publishing]* and the following exact text:

"The WA Department of Commerce Tribal Climate Resilience Grant program is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at climate.wa.gov."

9. Submission Details

- **Deadline:** Proposals must be submitted by **September 23rd 2026, 4:00PM PST.**
- **Submission Method:** All proposals are to be delivered electronically or via mail to:

Zoe Gish, Planner at zgish@squaxin.us

OR via mail

Zoe Gish
Planning and Community Development Department
10 SE Squaxin Lane
Shelton, WA 98584
(360) 432-3901