



Save the Sound[®]

Action for our region's environment.

Request for Qualifications

Proposing an Expanded Benefit-Cost Analysis Framework

Request for Qualifications:

Save the Sound requests quotes and statements of qualifications from firms with proven staff expertise in ecological economics for:

1. Investigation and research into existing benefit-cost analysis methods, current FEMA and other federal agency efforts to account for costs and benefits of nature-based solutions, and valuation of ecosystem services, connected habitat for threatened species, cost of replacement for marshes.
2. Completion of a traditional benefit-cost analysis for the Chittenden Park Living Shoreline Project in Guilford, CT using FEMA BCA V6.0.
3. Development of an expanded benefit-cost analysis model, built for incorporation into FEMA BCA V6.0, and production of a corresponding report or white paper that explains, justifies, and advocates for broad adoption of the expanded model.

Applicants should demonstrate proven experience with coastal ecology and restoration, benefit-cost analysis (using FEMA BCA V6.0) and quantification of ecosystem services, and an ability to conduct economic research to generate or support new ideas.

Project Objective: Produce a benefit-cost analysis report that outlines an approach to expanding or modifying the current FEMA BCA model to better reflect ecosystem services, which Save the Sound and other environmental groups can use to advocate for changes within federal agencies' funding criteria and project cost reasonableness assessments.

Locations: Chittenden Park, 127 Seaside Ave, Guilford, CT 06437 <https://goo.gl/maps/f4qHZXyJsFjMqNgt9>





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Project Background:

Benefit-cost analysis is used by FEMA and other federal agencies to determine whether an investment of public resources will produce a greater good. However, when current approaches are applied to the assessment of funding for coastal resilience, they fall well short of a full accounting of both costs and benefits. Ecosystem services provided by connected, protected, and/or restored ecosystems are largely ignored. For instance, the value of human life and homes are strongly considered, while value of natural habitat for threatened species is not. In the face of worsening climate change projections and recent storm events in the Long Island Sound region and across the coastal United States, communities are clamoring for solutions and means of funding and implementing adaptation. The fact that nature-based solutions are not given equal footing in the weighing of costs and benefits in these discussions is due in part to our inability to adequately assess the value of their full scope of costs and benefits.

Scope of Services Requested:

Save the Sound is looking for an ecological economics firm with experience preparing traditional cost-benefit analyses and ecosystem services assessments, as well as the creativity and imagination to develop and propose new cost and benefit factors that might be built onto existing models like FEMA BCA V6.0. Utilizing the Chittenden Park Living Shoreline project currently under design in Guilford, CT as a model and case study, this contractor will work with the living shoreline design firm (SLR) and Save the Sound to complete the following tasks:

Task 1: Investigation and Research

Investigation of the latest economic and academic models for assessing and quantifying ecosystem services for coastal wetlands, as well as any internal efforts at FEMA and other state and federal agencies to incorporate new metrics into benefit-cost analyses.

Deliverables:

- a) Summary of investigation and research, including resources accessed, notes from meetings and calls with FEMA and other agencies, and any gaps in research uncovered by the team.

Expected Timing: Jan – Feb, 2023

Task 2: Traditional BCA for Chittenden Park LS

Completion of a benefit-cost analysis (BCA) using FEMA BCA V6.0 for the Chittenden Park Living Shoreline project, which Save the Sound is currently designing with SLR Consulting. You will have access to the results from all completed site analyses and studies completed by SLR, as well as publicly-available historical data and information.

Deliverables:

- a) Completed FEMA BCA for Chittenden Park LS project including projected benefit-cost ratio (BCA).

Expected Timing: May – June, 2023 (depends on timing of designs for Chittenden Park prepared by SLR)

Task 3: Expanded BCA and Report

Production of a white paper proposing potential near-term changes to the FEMA BCA model to better assess the costs and benefits associated with nature-based solutions that preserve or restore ecosystem services.



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Deliverables:

- a) Completed expanded benefit-cost analysis for Chittenden Park LS project, including the benefit-cost ratio projected using the expanded model;
- b) Final report, reviewed and approved by Save the Sound, detailing the proposed expansion of the FEMA BCA V6.0 model with references, justification, and traditional vs. expanded BCAs included.

Expected Timing: Mar – Jul, 2023

Task 4: Project Management and Coordination

Regular communication and coordination with Save the Sound to explore potential directions, discuss progress and findings, and review draft deliverables.

Deliverables:

- a) Attend project kickoff meeting with Save the Sound, currently scheduled for January 12, 2023 from 10-11am EST;
- b) Regular project correspondence via email with Save the Sound to share ideas and updates or clarify project direction;
- c) Attend monthly project meetings as needed to discuss progress and next steps with Save the Sound and Pew.

Expected Timing: Jan – July, 2023

Quotes and statements of qualifications shall be submitted electronically to Save the Sound on or before January 6, 2023 by 5PM via email attachment or shared folder. Please coordinate with Anthony Allen in advance regarding the submittal. Proposals received after this deadline will be rejected. Please submit proposals to:

Anthony Allen

aallen@savethesound.org

Submittal Contents:

Complete submittals will include:

1. A brief (1-2 page) statement of qualifications that demonstrates an understanding of the project and describes similar projects or relevant experience of the firm;
2. Bios and resumes for key staff who will be working on the project;
3. A quote for delivery of the scope of services, broken down by task.

Proposal Evaluation:

Proposals will be reviewed by Save the Sound, with input from Chittenden Park Living Shoreline project partners, and awarded based on best-value selection. The following criteria will be used to evaluate the proposals submitted:

1. Cost-effectiveness of the proposal in providing requisite tasks for completing the project deliverables;
2. Timeliness in completing the requisite project tasks;
3. Qualifications and experience of the contractor firm and key contractor personnel.



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Disclaimer:

This RFQ does not commit Save the Sound to award a contract or to pay any costs incurred during the preparation of the proposals. Save the Sound reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Save the Sound also reserves the right to selectively contract or self-perform specific tasks within the scope of work if such modification is an asset to the project timeline or budget.