

WNC Microgrids RFP
Land of Sky Regional Council
FAQ's
1/14/2026

1) I want to submit a proposal with equipment that is not BABA compliant, how do I do that?

Note in the proposal that the equipment is not compliant, and which statute it does not comply with.

2) Working with Duke Energy on East Asheville Library - will Duke actually be willing to interconnect this?

Buncombe County Government, the owner of the building, has done extensive planning for this system. They have consulted with an engineering firm on the specifications with regard to interconnection requirements, but have not had a direct conversation with Duke about the project at this time.

3) East Asheville Library - hard to do without a Site Visit. Who did the drawings?

McKim & Creed. See document "East Asheville Library - Resiliency Project"

4) Buladean - Is the generator included?

No.

5) Timeline - is there a preferred completion date for first round projects?

No. Money needs to be out the door by March 2027

6) Can we extend the bid submission timeline?

No.

7) Burnsville - Generator is backing up both the panels? Therefore, the panel in the locker room is being fed from other panel?

Yes, the existing generator backs up all of the loads in both parts of the building.

8) When will projects be awarded?

Best case: January 30th

9) Commercial batteries are currently not FEOC and BABA compliant. To provide a solar PV system with battery backup, we will need to use non-compliant equipment. What is the path forward for this situation?

If there are no BABA compliant options available, the project will need to submit a request for a waiver for those components. We are prepared to do that and welcome all information that your vendors or manufacturers can supply us with to make our case to the Federal government.

10) Can you share complete drawing sets, including electrical one-line and architectural drawings of the sites?

Unfortunately, we have been unable to locate or get access to this information for a number of the sites. The only one that we have been able to access is the East Asheville Library. For three of the sites, we are unsure if that information still exists.

11) Please confirm the preferred location for the equipment (indoor or outdoor), specifically the batteries.

Buladean Community Center - Either
Bills Creek Community Center - Outdoor - prefer side of building where meter base is
Beacon of Hope - Either
East Asheville Library - See site information (pad location is identified)
Burnsville Fire Department - Outdoor, but either is allowable

12) Please identify critical loads along with breaker sizes in all sites that are supposed to be backed up by the batteries.

See site information folders at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RJwJzEluU8Kf2D2KLbX914P6yyCuKyAx?usp=s_haring

13) Are all of the loads (that are supposed to be backed up by the batteries) located in one panel?

See site information folders at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RJwJzEluU8Kf2D2KLbX914P6yyCuKyAx?usp=s_haring

14) *Please confirm if a separate panel for critical loads already exists, or if a new panel is required.*

Burnsville Fire Department has a transfer panel for the generator, which backs up the entire service to the building. All other sites will require a new solution. See site information folders at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RJwJzEluU8Kf2D2KLbX914P6yyCuKyAx?usp=sharing>

15) *Please confirm if the AC system sizes for all five sites are approved and allowed by the local utilities.*

There is a limitation from the utility on AC from the systems. Systems have been sized to be less than or equal to 100% of site's current energy usage. These should comply with utility interconnection requirements.

16) *We intend to use X module for the projects. It is FEOC compliant, but not BABA compliant. Would that be acceptable?*

All materials in the project must be compliant for BABA and FEOC in order to be eligible for the funding. Materials that are covered under any waivers that the project successfully pursues will be allowable. This could include batteries and potentially other components. Respondents are encouraged to locate fully compliant components if they are available, as the likelihood for a successful waiver request lowers as more components are asked to be covered by it.

FAQ's

12/31/2025

1) *How do these stationary sites relate to or connect to the beehives, if at all? Do you see these as part of the beehive concept?*

The RFP for stationary microgrid sites and the RFP for Beehive are functionally different. The beehive may include a stationary microgrid, but these parts of the project will be handled separately.

(2) *Will there be a data room with one-line drawings, geotechnical reports, engineering specs, roof info (as necessary), any planned onsite projects, etc?*

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RJwJzEluU8Kf2D2KLbX914P6yyCuKyAx?usp=drive_link

(3) Are all sites behind Duke, or are there any behind munis?

The utilities for the sites are Duke Energy, Rutherford EMC, French Broad EMC. There are no municipal owned utilities in the project area.

4) Will all site visits occur on a single day or will they be scheduled throughout the week of 1/5?

1-2 per day. See below site visit schedule.

Beacon of Hope

Wednesday, January 7 -

1:00pm-3:00pm

5111 US Hwy 25-70

Marshall, NC 28753

Jessi Koontz

Bills Creek

Community Center

Thursday, January 8 -

10:00am-12:00pm

198 Club House Road

Lake Lure, NC 28746

Chuck Landever

Burnsville Fire Department

Friday, January 9 -

9:00am-11:00am

305 Pineola Street

Burnsville, NC 28714

Chief Niles Howell

Buladean Community Center

Friday, January 9 -

1:00pm-3:00pm

12190 N 226 Hwy

Bakersville, NC 28705

Jen Graff

5) Would it be possible to push the RFI due date after all site visits are complete?

Request for RFI due date to be after January 9. Land of Sky agrees and will make edits to RFP to account for date changes to information requests.

6) Are you able to share the funding amount earmarked for these 5 projects?

We are unable to share this information as we are at the beginning of the program and don't have these budgeted individually at this time. Loosely, we have small-, medium-, and large-buckets from the original scope of work.

7) What is the required installation time line on these projects?

The grant will have to be closed out completely by March 2027. Meaning all work must be finished, documented, invoiced, and paid out before March 2027. There is some pressure to get installation moving on these projects so we have enough time to work through project challenges.

8) How did you arrive at the system sizes listed on the RFP?

System sizes were based on a rough estimate of critical load needs for the site.

9) Is FEOC / BABA a nice to have or a need to have?

This project is funded through federal funding, so all federal procurement rules apply. We are aware that it may be hard to find technology that complies with these requirements; however, all contractors will be responsible for ensuring that materials and equipment are compliant with BABA and FEOC, or that appropriate waiver processes have been followed.

10) Will Land of Sky be involved in the management of these projects through completion?

Yes, Land of Sky Regional Council will work with awardees and site hosts to help manage the project to completion.

11) Will these all be awarded to the same bidder or are they standing alone and can be awarded to multiple bidders?

Bidders are free to respond to any or all the sites and may be awarded to separate bidders. If bidders are responding to multiple sites and that creates a cost efficiency please show that in the response. If bidding on multiple sites, please provide a per-site line item.

12) For the buildings that are not getting full back up, do you want to see automatic load shedding installed or separated critical load panels?

No preference.

13) Can we quantify the critical loads that FP and LOS see as critical?

We will share information regarding critical loads, if the bidder sees other loads critical they are free to note that in their proposal with justification.

14) For East Asheville public library is there a PV system already and we are only responding to battery backup?

Yes, the East Asheville library is just a backup battery system.

15) Are all of the AC sites approved from the local utilities?

There is a limitation from the utility on AC from the systems. Systems have been sized to be less than or equal to 100% of site's current energy usage. These should comply with utility interconnection requirements.

16) Can you share the engineering for any of the other sites besides East Asheville site?

We will share information we have, unfortunately, the East Asheville site is the only site we are aware of with any engineering information.

17) Are you all committed to all 24 sites in the project?

The requirements (BABA FEOC) may trigger additional costs that make this budget hard to meet for 24 sites. This is the first of multiple RFPs in the project, we are committed to meeting the site number and doing meaningful high scoring projects. However, in the event pricing is coming above the available funding we are prepared to add smaller sites to help meet the delivery goals.

The project scope of work states up to 24 sites in the 6 counties. Our focus is on building well-functioning, impactful projects. Our goal is to build out 20+ sites by the end of the project, and have allowed for a variety of sizes of projects to help us make that goal.