

Addendum No. 1, IFB 21-65



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Purchasing
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

To: Prospective Bidders IFB 21-65, Single Stream Recycling Processing

From: Angela M. Allen, Director of Purchasing

Date: June 7, 2021

Re: Responses to Requests for Information and Bid Deadline Extension

Addendum No. 1 to IFB 21-65

This addendum documents responses to all requests for information (RFIs) submitted by prospective bidders.

The deadline for this bid is extended to Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

****ACKNOWLEDGE THIS ADDENDUM****

Please sign below and include this form in your application package.

X

Name of Authorized Signatory

Title of Authorized Signatory

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1. **Question:** How would living wage be applied?

Answer: Bidders shall describe their approach to applying the Somerville living wage to the price offered in this bid.

Additionally, Bidders shall refer to section 3.0 in the bid package. Bidders shall provide the methodology they will use for revenue sharing. Bidders shall provide price per ton when they apply the Somerville Living Wage and a price per ton when they do not apply the Somerville Living Wage. It is important that there be a way to independently validate and verify that employees that process recyclable materials at the contractor's facility are paid the Somerville Living Wage, at least proportional to the materials being processed from Somerville. The current fiscal year's living wage is \$15.29. The upcoming fiscal year's living wage is \$15.46.

2. **Question:** Has there been any recent valuation of contamination levels?

Answer: The City has not been fined for contamination levels under its current contract. Based on the information given to the City of Somerville's recycling coordinator, loads of single-stream recycling delivered to and accepted by the current processor have been less than three (3) percent.

3. **Question:** Should the bidder's pricing option reflect this low level of contamination?

Answer: As stated in Section 3.0 of the Invitation for Bid, bidders shall provide a transparent price proposal to the City as part of the bid if Bidder will be charging the City for contamination in the resulting contract. Bidder shall factor in any changes in the recycling industry as the contamination charges offered and accepted with the bid will remain firm for the duration of the contract term.

4. **Question:** Who is currently processing the City's recycling?

Answer: Casella Recycling, LLC

5. **Question:** Can you please provide us with the current processing contract and pricing structure/rates? Could the City kindly provide a copy of the current contract?

Answer: The contract is available via [this link](#).

6. **Question:** Could the City also provide copies of the most recent three months of invoices including the ACR calculations?

Answer: The requested invoices are available via [this link](#) (same as above).

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7. **Question:** You mentioned the City had less than 3% contamination. How was this calculated? Visually, physical audit, etc.? If audited, do you have a copy of the load composition?

Answer: We don't get regular updates about the contamination level. However, the City has strictly followed the Load Rejection Policy (page 17 of 35 in the contract document). Contractor has their system to inspect recycling material for any contamination and to make sure that it doesn't exceed 10% as per the contractual Load Rejection Policy. The number (<3%) provided was based on some conversations with the contractor. There is no formal audit or a system of "audit/inspection report" submission.

8. **Question:** Who is the current hauler?

Answer: Boston Carting Services, LLC hauls the City of Somerville's solid waste, recyclable materials and yard waste.

9. **Question:** Does the hauler leave contaminated materials behind? If so what percentage is left?

Answer: Yes. The hauler leaves contaminated materials on the curb and picks them up as trash. The hauler reports that this is a rare occurrence, i.e. only a few times per week at the most.

10. **Question:** Is there a team within the City that does contamination and recycling enforcement or is this left up to the hauler?

Answer: There are three sanitation inspectors on the road that daily track routes of trash and recycling. They do random checking of recycling and trash for any mixing.

11. **Question:** What incentives, if any, does the hauler have to ensure the product they are collecting is clean?

Answer: The hauler is not directly incentivized to reduce contamination. The City's sanitation inspectors regularly audit recycling and issue tickets for contamination, which is a disincentive for residents to contaminate. In addition, the hauler is permitted to make a visual assessment of recycling barrels and reject collection if substantial contamination is visible.

12. **Question:** The Quality Requirements form requires that the Offeror must submit written information that details the general background, experience and qualification of the organization. Does this mean that the Offeror must submit examples of the following reports or would written descriptions suffice?

- Monthly Tonnage Report?
- ACR Value and price calculations?
- Living wage data?

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- Recycling audit data?
- End-use of recyclable material processed?

The questions is prompted by the note in Section 2.0 (3) (e) that states a sample report [of the end-use of recyclable material processed] will be required as a part of the response to this IFB at the time of submission.

Answer: Bidders can submit a template of each report type and/or a written description.

13. **Question:** Will the City accept bids if vendor does not submit pricing on all options requested?

Answer: No.

14. **Question:** Could you please clarify the performance bond requirement?
- a. 100% of Term of Contract?
 - b. 100% annually?

Answer: One hundred percent performance bond annually.

15. **Question:** What has the Living Wage rate been over the last 5-years?

Answer: The table below shows the living wage over the past five fiscal years (FY) and the living wage for the upcoming FY that will apply to the first year of this contract. The living wage was adjusted by ordinance in FY2020 to \$15.00, hence the relatively large change from the Living Wage in FY2019 and FY2020.

Somerville Living Wage History	
FY	Wage
2017	\$ 12.31
2018	\$ 12.49
2019	\$ 12.80
2020	\$ 15.00
2021	\$ 15.29
2022	\$ 15.46