

## **Request for Proposals**

### **Economic Impact Assessment of Ontario's Green Infrastructure Sector**

#### **Objective**

The objective of the project is to produce a credible and compelling report on the economic contributions of the green infrastructure sector in Ontario. The report will:

- Define the green infrastructure sector
- Assess the economic impact of the green infrastructure sector
- Estimate the potential to stimulate economic growth in Ontario from increased investment in green infrastructure

#### **Background**

The Green Infrastructure Ontario (GIO) Coalition is a multi-sectoral alliance comprised of private sector companies, industry associations, municipal and regional governments, community groups, and not-for-profit organizations. Together, we promote the implementation of green infrastructure across Ontario by providing a united voice for this vital and growing sector.

Green infrastructure is defined by GIO as the natural vegetative systems and green technologies that collectively provide society with a multitude of economic, environmental and social benefits. This includes: Urban forests and woodlots; bioswales, engineered wetlands and stormwater ponds; wetlands, ravines, waterways and riparian zones; meadows and agricultural lands; green roofs and green walls; urban agriculture; parks, gardens, turf, and landscaped areas. It also includes soil in volumes and qualities adequate to sustain green infrastructure and absorb water, as well as technologies like porous pavements, rain barrels and cisterns, which are typically part of green infrastructure support systems. The green technologies in this definition replicate the functions of ecosystems, such as stormwater storage and filtration. This definition is scoped for this specific research in 1. below.

GIO is seeking a consultant(s) to assess the economic impact of Ontario's green infrastructure sector. Our aim is to help business leaders, government officials, and others recognize the green infrastructure sector's economic impact to support decision making processes and more investments in the sector. GIO has a sense of the type of information we want, and are seeking proponents who understand our objectives and can propose effective and cost-efficient ways to achieve them. To that end, we are asking proponents to propose an approach or approach(es) and metrics they can achieve within the overall project scope and budget outlined below.

#### **Scope of Work**

The successful consultant will undertake the following work:

1. Gather information to define the size and scope of the green infrastructure sector in Ontario.

Defining Ontario's green infrastructure sector is a key step in valuing and assessing the sector's contribution to the economy, but it is not a simple task. The sector comprises both public (government and non-government) and businesses that operate in the following focus areas:

- Green roof and walls
- Natural heritage

- Urban forests
- Parks and open spaces
- Stormwater management
- Agriculture (where possible distinguish rural and urban agriculture)

The sector includes those who plan, design, engineer, build, equip/supply, manage, monitor and operate green infrastructure systems. Some green infrastructure focus areas will have existing economic impacts assessments, for example [tree planting in southern Ontario](#), and the consultant should draw on these existing resources wherever possible.

The consultant will conduct initial research, consultation, and a gap analysis to determine what focus areas have existing economic impact assessments, which ones have relevant data/resources, and which ones are less well defined. GIO acknowledges there is overlap between the focus areas as described above and would look to the consultant to re-define the focus areas as needed to avoid duplication and to ensure clarity in the analysis and reporting of the economic impacts, in consultation with the project team and the GIO steering committee.

2. Assess the economic impact of the green infrastructure sector using primary and secondary resources. The consultant will be expected to:
  - 1) Develop economic impact assessments for each focus area using a combination of primary and secondary resources as necessary. This should be done with appropriate level of depth to fill gaps determined by the research/gap analysis.
  - 2) Combine existing economic impact assessments and the assessments conducted by the consultant to create a roll up of the entire green infrastructure sector.

This should include analyzing and reporting on the following, and bidders are invited to propose other metrics:

- Size, nature and relative value of employment in the green infrastructure sector.
    - Proposed metrics **must** include: overall number of positions (FTE);
    - Proposed metrics **may** include: temporary versus permanent; comparisons to other sectors (e.g. automotive sector).
  - Overall economic activity in the green infrastructure sector.
    - Proposed metrics **must** include: GDP and Total Economic Impact, including direct and indirect impacts.
    - Proposed metrics **may** include: induced economic impacts, number and nature of organizations (SMEs vs large companies; for-profit vs not-for-profit).
  - Sector trends in the medium term. This could include showing change in employment or economic activity and any future projections.
  - Public revenue attributable to the green infrastructure sector. Relevant metrics could include provincial and local tax contributions of the sector.
- 3) Estimate the potential to stimulate economic growth in Ontario from increased investment in green infrastructure. Example metrics could include jobs created/dollars invested. The proponent should consider a range of infrastructure funding scenarios that shift funding from grey to green infrastructure, including making assumptions about grey infrastructure spending in the next 10 years that could be replaced or complemented by green

infrastructure implementation.

### **Project Timeline and Budget**

The project should be completed by December 31, 2019.

The budget range is \$40,000-55,000 (including HST).

### **Deliverables, Milestones and Schedule**

Anticipated Project Start Date	July 2 , 2019
Kick off meeting	Week of July 2, 2019
Draft report outline	August 31 2019
Report draft 1	October 31, 2019
Report draft 2	November 29, 2019
Final report	December 31, 2019

The consultant should expect two additional in person meetings with either the Project Team or the GIO Steering Committee, to be determined. These consultation meetings will be approximately two hours long and located in the Greater Toronto Area.

The successful proponent will be expected to report monthly on project progress and provide the deliverables to the Vice President, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, GIO Executive Director and Program Manager.

### **Proposal Requirements**

Proponents should respond under each heading clearly and concisely. Emphasis should be placed on providing information and materials that conform to these instructions, and to completeness and clarity of content.

### **Proposal Deadline**

Proposals must be received by email no later than by July 2, 2019 by [kmacpherson@greenbelt.ca](mailto:kmacpherson@greenbelt.ca) and [michelle.sawka@trca.ca](mailto:michelle.sawka@trca.ca).

### **Proponent's Information and Profile**

The first page of the Proposal should include the following information:

- Proponent's full legal name (if incorporated or a partnership) or individual's name (if a sole proprietor);
- Name and title of the primary contact person for the Proponent's Proposal; and,
- Mailing address, telephone number and email address of Proponent's primary contact.

Proponents should also provide an overview of the company including years in operation and their interest in undertaking the scope of work.

### **Key Personnel**

The Proponent must submit information related to the qualifications and experience of personnel who will be assigned to perform activities contemplated by the Scope of Work, which may include resumes, documentation of accreditation, and/or letters of reference.

### **Experience and Methodology**

The Proponent should review the Scope of Work and demonstrate its understanding of, and ability to perform, the activities contemplated therein. The Proponent should describe the approaches/methodology the Proponent proposes to take to meet the Scope of Work requirements.

The Proponent should also provide a summary of work or projects completed within the past five years that are of a similar nature and scope to the Scope of Work.

### **Proposed Work Plan and Budget**

The Proponent must provide a detailed work plan of the activities contemplated by the Scope of Work, including all the tasks, milestones, and timeframes, by providing a chart, graphic, or other tool. The names of the individuals performing each task, including the proposed hours to be worked, and an estimate work breakdown by focus areas, should be included. A price per work plan item shall be provided along with estimated hours by each of the team members. Prices should be quoted in Canadian dollars exclusive of HST.

### **References**

Provide the names and contact information of 3 client references with brief descriptions of work performed.