



**REGIONAL
OPPORTUNITY
INITIATIVES**



**INDIANA
UPLANDS** | PROUD PARTNER



**INDIANA UPLANDS
ELECTRIC VEHICLE ECOSYSTEM
PLAN AND DESIGN
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Purpose

Regional Opportunity Initiatives (ROI), seeks a qualified consultant with expertise in electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure planning to study and develop an EV plan encompassing infrastructure, development, and implementation for the Indiana Uplands region. The purpose of the study is to analyze existing conditions and EV adoption trends to create an infrastructure plan to increase EV charging infrastructure throughout the region. Additionally, the selected firm will assess the region's current state of research and development, manufacturing, and/or supply chain opportunities that may be impacted by or benefit from the transition to electrification. The selected firm will engage key regional stakeholders to present a comprehensive vision for electrification throughout the Indiana Uplands.

Background

About Regional Opportunity Initiatives

The mission of ROI is to advance economic and community prosperity in the 11 counties of the Indiana Uplands (Brown, Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Owen, and Washington). ROI is growing potential and possibility through a focus on advanced industry sectors, regionalism, transformative school and workforce redesign, and placemaking strategies.

More about ROI can be found on our [website](#). The Regional Strategic Plan can be found [here](#).

The Indiana Uplands

Rich with cultural and physical amenities, the Indiana Uplands has long been known as an oasis of hills, valleys, lakes, forests, and wildlife in a state known for its farming and agriculture. The Uplands is home to one of America's oldest artist colonies, Indiana's largest state park, and the dome at West Baden Springs Hotel, often called the eighth wonder of the world. We are proud to have attracted visitors from around the world that seek out the beauty and serenity of our natural resources, the draw of our arts and entertainment, and the energy of our many recreational, cultural, and athletic venues.

To the 398,248 people who call our region home, however, the Uplands has much more to offer than just the charm of its idyllic rural setting. It is not only a place where people choose to raise their families, grow their gardens, and explore the outdoors, but also home to world-class manufacturing, research, and innovation assets. Bloomington is ranked the #1 small city for medical device and equipment manufacturing. Jasper has been acclaimed as one of America's top 25 small towns. In Martin County, the world's third-largest Naval installation, NSA Crane, sits beside the ever-growing WestGate certified technology park where engineers, scientists, and technologists deliver cutting-edge solutions.

The region is home to Indiana University, one of the world's premier R1 Doctoral universities,

the new Luddy Center for Artificial Intelligence, and Big Red 200, the first HPE's revolutionary new Cray EX supercomputers installed at a U.S. University. Further evidence of the region's innovative DNA can be found at the Battery Innovation Center, the Cook Center for Entrepreneurship, and the Center for Technology, Innovation and Manufacturing at Vincennes University Jasper Campus.

Recently, the Uplands has made a number of exciting announcements. General Motors (GM) announced a \$45 million investment at their Bedford, Indiana plant to expand capacity for EV drive unit castings. Other Uplands companies have plans to also work in this field. WestGate Technology Park hosted a groundbreaking for a \$84 million investment in a collaborative microelectronics campus that will add 550 specialized jobs in the coming years. Ours is a region of global sophistication and innovation complemented by extraordinary cultural and physical assets.

While the Indiana Uplands is a region defined by its geography, it is aligned by choice. In 2012, encouraged by interest from the Lilly Endowment, 11 disparate counties made the decision to come together to pursue a shared vision for success. They committed to exploring their possibilities and interdependencies through a two-year planning process that produced the 2014 Strategic Plan for Economic and Community Prosperity in Southwest Central Indiana, culminating in a significant investment by the Lilly Endowment in 2016.

In the ensuing years, the region has coalesced around its three technology-driven industry sectors – advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and national security and defense. Together, the region has developed a brand, transformed its schools, quantified its housing and broadband challenges, tackled quality of place, and confronted the complexities of talent attraction and retention.

Plan Considerations

EVs can be particularly attractive in rural areas as opposed to conventional vehicles. Rural residents drive more miles than their urban counterparts; spending more on fuel and vehicle maintenance. Four of the 11 Uplands counties are classified as Noncore (less than 10,000 residents), three counties are classified as Micro (10,000 – 49,999 residents) and four are classified as Metro (over 50,000 residents). Bloomington is the region's largest city with a population of over 80,000. All Uplands residents, regardless of where they call home, should have the opportunity to benefit from this shift in technology. As noted above, the Uplands natural resources are a tourist draw. Ultimately, the implementation of this plan must give rural Uplands residents, and anyone who visits our rural counties, the confidence that they can reliably recharge their EVs whenever and wherever needed.

This plan must complement, but not duplicate, the work being done by the [State of Indiana](#) along designated alternative fuel corridors (AFC's). The plan must also consider new terrain corridors such as the [Mid-States Corridor](#) and other highly traveled rural roads.

Key Stakeholders

The consultant team will work with the Electric Vehicle Advisory Team (EVAT) representing key stakeholders within the Indiana Uplands (participants will be identified by ROI and its partner organizations). In addition, the consultant team should expect to engage with ROI and its partners, local and state government officials, utility companies, key sector employers, REALTORS, institutions of higher learning, economic development stakeholders such as the Uplands Science and Technology Foundation, Radius Indiana, and county LEDOs, as well as members of the public as appropriate.

Scope of Services

The primary tasks of the consultant will be to:

Background Information

Task 1	Background and Content
Task 1.1	Basics of EV Charging Provide an overview of the fundamental concepts in EV technology. This can include images, diagrams, and infographics in addition to educational text.
Task 1.2	Glossary Explain key terms and acronyms that will be used throughout the scope of this work.
Task 1.3	Data Collection Collect various types of data including, but not limited to, countywide electric vehicle ownership statistics, travel survey data, charging station outlet costs, potential travel demand, and other relevant data. Data collection methodologies may include a mix of general field reconnaissance, survey administration, or other means of data collection. Data should be summarized, organized, and presented in easy-to-digest maps, figures, and charts.
Task 1.4	Benefits to the Region Assess the community and individual benefits from the deployment of EV technology.
Task 1.5	Market Assessment Evaluate the current and forecasted future demand for electric vehicles in the Indiana Uplands. The assessment should consider all types of electrified modes of transportation, including personal vehicles, commercial/delivery vehicles, school buses, public transit, etc.

Infrastructure Analysis

Task 2	Current Analysis
Task 2.1	Existing Conditions Analysis

	Assess the current status of electric vehicle infrastructure charging availability, utilization, and origin-destination travel patterns.
Task 2.2	Infrastructure Assessment Assess the existing electrical infrastructure capacity, including analyzing historic electric use data, utility coordination for grid capacity analysis, recommended/required upgrades, and any other data relevant to planning the addition of electric load in support of EV chargers.
Task 2.3	Future EV Infrastructure Projections Evaluate projections for future EV charging infrastructure needs in the region, including along major thoroughfares and new terrain corridors such as the Mid-States Corridor to complement the State’s plan, as well as business districts, shopping areas, residential areas, and recreational areas such as state parks, campgrounds, boat ramps, and resorts. The evaluation may include the timing of EV charging station needs and may contemplate forecasts of future demand.
Task 2.4	Options for Recommended Locations Recommendations should include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware or technology considerations • Ownership, operation, and pricing models • Interoperability • Operations and maintenance • Any necessary electrical distribution infrastructure enhancements • Vehicle -2-Grid or related policies, technical or programmatic opportunities

EV Readiness Policies

Task 3	Policy Review and Recommendations
Task 3.1	Policy and Procedure Review Review the zoning, codes, permitting, inspection codes, and related processes and new construction development conditions for the counties, cities, and towns in the Indiana Uplands with regard to the development and installation of EV infrastructure.
Task 3.2	Policy and Procedure Recommendations Provide recommendations based on best practices for EV readiness for zoning, codes, permitting, inspection codes, and related processes and new construction development conditions for the counties, cities, and towns in the Indiana Uplands with regard to the development and installation of EV infrastructure.
Task 3.3	Policy and Procedure Recommendations for EV Charging Stations Provide recommended policies, programs, tools, and/or approaches to locating, operating, promoting, and enforcing appropriate uses of

	EV charging infrastructure at businesses, organizations, state parks, municipal-owned facilities, multi-family dwellings, single-family neighborhoods, and other strategic private or public locations.
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Economic Analysis

Task 4	Economic Analysis and Recommendations
Task 4.1	<i>Competitive Assessment</i> Identify and analyze key areas where the Uplands is engaged in current technology manufacturing capabilities and capacity, including future technology research, commercialization, and manufacturing of electrification. What opportunities exist for the Uplands in this field? How can the Uplands create short- and long-term wins in this rapidly evolving market?
Task 4.2	<i>Workforce Development</i> Outline workforce development opportunities for Uplands residents to support electrification efforts and possibilities. Provide case studies of similar programs in other regions and outline best practices.

As experts in this field, if alternatives or additional tasks should be included, please include details in your response.

Additional Considerations

- How will electrification impact lower socio-economic sectors of our society?
- How can the Uplands provide the benefits of electrification to its citizens?

Deliverables

Final deliverables will be agreed upon after discussion with the selected consultant. Anticipated outcomes include the following:

- Draft and final report and presentation summarizing the report and findings
- Maps
- EV Infographics, diagrams, and images
- Presentation of results of the project to key stakeholders

Proposal Requirements

Proposals will be accepted by email. The project committee reserves the right to waive any irregularities and to reject any and all bids. They also reserve the right to negotiate with the selected bidder.

Selected consultants will be interviewed. Proposals will be taken under advisement to determine if the proposal meets the requirements outlined in the RFP. Proposals must include:

- The level of work to be performed and a timeline for completion.
- Team names and positions and descriptions of experience and skills of each member
- Name and contact information of the official contact person for the analysis
- Three (3) references for work in energy, climate change, or environmental planning at primarily rural region level, with at least one of these references being for work on an EV Infrastructure Readiness study, strategy, plan, or similar project
- A detailed service plan with a description of the process to be taken that will ensure the expectations outlined in the Scope of Services are met
- Provide samples of similar project deliverables. These may be provided as a hyperlink, PDF, or actual .xls or .doc file
- Total calculated price, with alternatives if appropriate

Proposal Submission and Selection Process

Final proposal submissions are due electronically by 11:59 pm EST on May 19, 2023.

Proposals can be submitted to Lisa Abbott, VP of Economic & Community Development

Email: lisaabbott@regionalopportunityinc.org

Phone: (812)345-3780

Questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Lisa Abbott via email, as noted above.

The successful Proposer, if any, selected through this RFP will be the Proposer that submits a proposal on or before the Submittal Deadline that best serves the Indiana Uplands needs as evaluated.

The evaluation of proposals and the selection of the successful Proposer will be based on the information provided in the proposal. The project committee may consider additional information if they determine it is relevant. The committee reserves the right to request an oral presentation/interview to seek clarification and additional information as needed to make a final determination.

The project committee expects to select a vendor in the beginning of June 2023.