

# COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY MANAGEMENT

To strengthen our sustainability efforts, Ohio State is considering an innovative energy strategy that also could provide new resources for our academic mission.

**Where the process stands** The university is evaluating proposals from 10 multi-firm teams about how an energy partnership might work. These responses to our Request for Information provide more details about every aspect of the project, including how they'd meet our goals for sustainability, maintaining quality of operations, affinity partnerships and more. They also provide initial indications of how teams assess the financial value of the opportunity.

**What happens now** The university is evaluating the responses and seeking input from our three advisory groups. The RFI is the second of three possible phases in our evaluation process. Based on the analysis of the project team and feedback from the advisory groups, the university will decide whether to proceed to the third phase, a Request for Proposals.

**What happens in a RFP?** In a Request for Proposals phase, the university would develop a detailed plan that would spell out the operational, sustainability, financial and every other major aspect of how a partnership would work. Potential partners would then bid on the opportunity.

## How would this project support our academic mission?

Any proceeds, combined with savings from efficiencies, would be invested to support access, affordability and excellence.

## How would this project support sustainability?

Any partner would be required to make a significant investment to enhance energy conservation, while providing expertise to daily operations.

## KEY POINTS WHAT RFI RESPONSES SHOW

**Conservation:** Teams envision major campus-wide projects to immediately improve sustainability. All teams commit to meet the university's goal to reduce building energy use by 25 percent in the first 10 years.

**Operations:** Teams commit to meet our existing high operating standards. There is significant interest in retaining the expertise of our current staff.

**Supply:** The university's size and scope will allow us to have a significant amount of flexibility and opportunity in our supply arrangement moving forward.

**Affinity:** The range of options include support for internships, scholarships, capstone projects, faculty research, professional development for staff and more.

## OUR THREE-STAGE EVALUATION PROCESS

RFQ  
(FEB-JUNE 2015)  
Goal: Qualify partners to participate

RFI  
(OCT. 2015-PRESENT)  
Goal: Obtain more detailed information from teams

RFP  
(TBD if project continues)  
Goal: Refine project terms, obtain final bids from teams

# COMPREHENSIVE

## ENERGY MANAGEMENT

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why do we need a private partner to help us with energy efficiency and conservation measures?

We have made progress, but it is clear that we need to address energy efficiency from a campus-wide perspective to support our commitment to sustainability. To make significant progress toward energy efficiency, the university needs to consider partnering with specialists with the technical and financial ability to move the campus forward in a single, comprehensive project.

#### What do the teams look like?

They generally involve partners focused on the financial, operations and conservation aspects of the project. Teams include well-known names in the industry, companies with worldwide scale and ones with experience in our region.

#### How has the university been consulted throughout this process?

Three groups of faculty, staff and students are providing advice on sustainability, technical details and other aspects of the project. Presentations have been made to governance committees and updates provided through campuswide emails and the project website ([osu.edu/energymanagement](http://osu.edu/energymanagement)).

#### What would happen to employees?

We won't know a specific answer until later in the process, but at a minimum potential partners are required to interview affected employees if this project goes forward. Teams generally have expressed a high level of interest in retaining the knowledge and expertise of our existing staff.

#### What would happen to the rates charged to units on campus?

We are committed to ensuring that the university's long-term utility rates would remain affordable and that service and reliability levels remain at — or exceed — our high historical performance standards.

#### How would a decision be made?

Based on the feedback of the project team and advisory groups, senior leaders will decide whether to bring the opportunity to the Board of Trustees for a public vote.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**411**

buildings on the Columbus campus

**24 million**

square footage of Columbus campus buildings

**~\$105 million**

annual amount university spends on energy

**\$250 million**

estimated cost to install energy conservation measures campus-wide

**\$1.7 billion**

estimated cost of capital improvements for energy infrastructure over the next 50 years

**20+**

Number of campus groups (including students, faculty and staff) briefed on project

**2014**

dates of first campus meetings (October) on project