

GovOps Announces Code-a-Thon, Takes Step Toward Statewide Open Data Portal

By Justine Brown|August 28, 2015|

The Government Operations Agency (GovOps) and the Department of General Services announced they will host the GreenGov Challenge, an open data code-a-thon, in late October. The contest is designed to challenge the civic coding community to better show the work the state is doing to combat climate change.

Contest participants will create visualizations, apps, and other tools to that can help improve government sustainability practices drawing at least one data set available through the pilot Statewide Open Data Portal. The goal of the contest is to help citizens and decision makers understand the state's progress on achieving sustainability goals and to help policymakers and implementers inside state government make better informed decisions.

"We are really excited about the launch of the Green Gov Challenge," said DGS spokesman Brian Ferguson in an email. "This is truly a groundbreaking moment where we are seeking creative ways to open up state government to the marketplace of ideas and innovation. As the contest slogan says we are hoping the public can help the state 'Find a new way' for 25k."

A total of \$25,000 in prize money will be awarded to the winning entrants. State employees are not eligible to participate.

Meanwhile, GovOps has circulated a solicitation for small businesses to compete for a contract to develop a statewide portal.

The solicitation calls for a service "to allow easier access and downloading of the state's publishable data" and which would allow state CIOs to "integrate statewide technology initiatives, ensure agencies and departments are in compliance with information technology and security policies and standards, and promote the alignment and effective management of information technology resources."

More specifically, the solicitation calls for a complete SaaS cloud-based Open Data Portal solution including implementation services, training services and support.