

## 7x7x7: Case Studies in School Energy and Water Reduction - Questions and Answers

Provided below are the questions received regarding the Division of the State Architect's (DSA's) initiative, *7x7x7: Case Studies in School Energy and Water Reduction*. DSA will also post a Sample Agreement to the [7x7x7 section of our Sustainability Web page](#) that the seven selected teams will sign to participate in 7x7x7.

Please remember that letters of interest to participate in 7x7x7 must be submitted electronically to [Jordan Aquino](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2015.

### Here are the questions we received:

**1. In addition to LEED projects, can CHPS verified or HPI grant recipients qualify as examples?**

The requirements have been updated so that interested firms may identify any combination of at least three LEED Gold or Platinum, or CHPS Verified, projects from the last five years.

**2. Should we be submitting as architects alone, or should we include sub-consultants—such as an MEP expert—on this project?**

At minimum, a list of the entire team (including sub-consultants) should be provided in the letter of interest.

**3. Is the submitting training team required to specify interest in only one project scenario or can several preferred project scenarios be named in the letter of interest?**

While it is not necessary to do so, teams may specify interest in one or more, or all, scenarios they wish to work on.

**4. Are there specific requirements for the final deliverables (graphics, model) and what format/program are they expected to be provided?**

The final deliverables are to include:

- A PowerPoint, or compatible format, for presentation at all of the regional presentations and at the “call to action” training event.
- Materials that are in a camera-ready format for inclusion in the final report/take home materials for training participants.

There is also a possibility that drawings could be pinned up in a gallery at the five events, depending on the event space.

**5. What will be the format of the CEC energy model?**

DSA is still coordinating with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to determine

the format of the energy model. When more information becomes available, we will post it to the [7x7x7 section of our Sustainability Web page](#).

**6. On what basis will the training teams be selected if the award process is noncompetitive?**

To clarify, 7x7x7 is not a design competition among the seven teams.

The selection process, however, is meant to identify the most qualified teams to participate in the initiative.

Each letter of interest will be examined to determine if the interested firm meets the minimum qualifications for participation in the initiative. Letters from the qualified teams will be submitted to the State Architect to review.

The State Architect will compare the qualifications based on the letters of interest to determine which teams to select to participate in 7x7x7. If necessary, the State Architect may narrow the pool of candidates to a smaller group and may contact the remaining candidates for additional information before selecting the final seven teams.

**7. Some architectural firms have multiple offices throughout California. Is it the intent that each firm submit only one letter of interest or can each office submit a letter of interest?**

Each office may submit a letter of interest.

**8. Is there a tentative schedule for the delivery of the case studies and associated presentations?**

Training teams should have their case studies near completion by the start of the four regional presentations. The four regional presentations are tentatively scheduled for the final two weeks of January 2016.

Following the regional presentations, the teams will have a couple of weeks to complete their case studies. The final “call to action” event is tentatively scheduled for the final week of February 2016.

**9. Who will retain the rights to the case studies?**

Each of the training teams will retain all rights of ownership to the intellectual property.

DSA, and other agencies authorized by DSA, will have the unfettered right to utilize the work product and presentation material at no cost to DSA or any other authorized state agency, including all audio and/or visual recordings prepared by the team for public presentations.

DSA agrees to always include recognition of the training team that developed the materials.

**10. LEED has been referenced in your letter of interest requirements. Do you also require firms to show experience with CHPS or other green building rating tools?**

At a minimum, interested firms must identify any combination of at least three LEED Gold or Platinum, or CHPS Verified, projects from the last five years. Any experience beyond the minimum three projects may be taken into consideration when selecting the final seven teams.

**11. Do you have a framework for what the presentation will include, or does each firm provide a customized presentation?**

Following the selection of the seven teams, the State Architect and the seven teams will jointly establish the framework for the presentations.

**12. Is it important for the presentation to include recommendations for the sustainable construction and operations of each building scenario?**

Yes, if they are part of the design recommendations.

**13. Since water conservation is part of the program, should we include a Landscape Architect as part of the team?**

Yes.