



**PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ("RFI")**

**REGARDING**

**POTENTIAL ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION PROJECTS**

RFI ISSUANCE DATE: March 30, 2026

RFI RESPONSE DUE DATE: May 13, 2026

RFI # 35890

## Request for Information Regarding Potential Organic Waste Diversion Projects

### Introduction

On behalf of Philadelphia Gas Works (“PGW”), the City of Philadelphia Department of Sanitation, and the City of Philadelphia Department of Aviation, PGW is issuing this Request for Information (“RFI”) to solicit responses regarding options for developing and operating potential organic waste diversion projects (“Projects”). This RFI is directed to entities that have proven experience designing, developing and/or operating systems to divert and process organic wastes towards productive, emission-reducing purposes, and is intended to:

- Provide general background information related to potential Projects; and
- Solicit input on a variety of issues, including: the potential biochemical and thermochemical waste conversion processes; end-use energy products and associated energy credits; commercial structures and financing models, and; market information, interest, and general project viability.

There are a number of drivers for these Projects and this RFI, including:

- Diverting organic waste streams to alternate productive end-use opportunities for the sake of mitigating environmental impacts and creating additional economic value;
- Evaluating alternative technologies for separating organic waste feedstocks from waste streams;
- Identifying and evaluating the range of potential biochemical and thermochemical processes for converting organic waste feedstocks;
- Evaluating advanced technologies and associated challenges for resource recovery that targets organic waste streams;
- Identifying and evaluating the range of potential derived products, end-uses and targets markets for the sake of both reducing emissions and producing economic value; and
- Evaluating potential commercial structure options and appropriate roles and responsibilities in terms of: cost-effectiveness and efficiency; best leveraging existing skillsets, assets, and complementary services; and risk mitigation.

#### Notes:

- By submission of a response to this RFI, Respondents acknowledge and agree that the City, as a municipal corporation, is subject to state and local public disclosure laws and, as such, is legally obligated to disclose to the public documents, including RFI responses, to the extent required thereunder. Without limiting the foregoing sentence, the City's legal obligations shall not be limited or expanded in any way by a Respondent's assertion of confidentiality and/or proprietary data.
- Respondents also expressly agree and acknowledge that any response to this RFI, including written documents and verbal communication, regardless of how marked by respondent, is not confidential and may be subject to public disclosure by PGW, or any authorized agent

of PGW, including but not limited to disclosure under the Pennsylvania Right to Know Law. Any materials submitted or ideas elicited in response to this RFI (i) shall be the sole and absolute property of PGW, with PGW having title, and (ii) may be used and/or implemented by PGW without compensation, including, without limitation, to develop strategies and development options for Projects and/or issue further solicitations. By responding to this RFI, respondents expressly waive any right to designate their response or parts thereof confidential, proprietary, a trade secret, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under any circumstance.

- It is the express purpose of this RFI to assist PGW and the City by, without limitation, providing information that may be included in a potential future public competitive solicitation, such as a Request for Quotations (“RFQ”) or Request for Proposals (“RFP”), if any, which may be issued at a later date to solicit specific proposals.

## Instructions to Respondents

Notice is hereby given that Philadelphia Gas Works (“PGW”) will receive proposals in an electronic PDF format on or before Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 2:30 pm Eastern Time, via [pgw.procurement.com](http://pgw.procurement.com). Responses should in no case exceed fifteen (15) pages.

Questions concerning this RFI shall be directed in writing to Najey McDuffie at [Najey.McDuffie@pgworks.com](mailto:Najey.McDuffie@pgworks.com) or via Procurement on or before Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. Respondents may not contact any other PGW personnel regarding this RFI.

To the fullest extent possible, Respondent’s submission should provide answers to the questions set forth below in the Section below entitled “Information Requested.” Entities who submit written responses may be invited for a discussion regarding their responses with PGW management.

## PGW Overview

PGW is a municipally owned natural gas distribution company managed by the Philadelphia Facilities Management Corporation (hereafter referred to as “PFMC”). PGW provides natural gas service to approximately 500,000 active accounts within the city of Philadelphia, using 6,000 miles of natural gas mains and services. PGW is the only utility currently distributing gas within the City of Philadelphia.

PGW is currently collaborating with the Philadelphia Energy Authority and the Philadelphia Water Department in pursuing potential renewable natural gas projects at two of the City’s wastewater treatment plants. Although in the early phase, this project may offer an opportunity to consider expanding additional feedstocks for anaerobic co-digestion at these locations in the future. This RFI is intended to identify and evaluate potential additional and separate waste diversion, collection and energy processing approaches for solid organic wastes. Respondents to this RFI need not include anaerobic digestion of existing City wastewater feedstock.

## Organic Waste Diversion Project Overview

The City of Philadelphia's Sanitation Department operates one of the largest municipal collection systems in the country with over 500,000 households (six dwelling units or fewer), seasonal leaf collection services and operation of six sanitation convenience centers.

The City of Philadelphia Department of Aviation processes over 2,000 tons of waste from the Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) on an annual basis and estimates that 600 tons of organic waste could be diverted from the airport concession waste stream. For more information on PHL waste management, please review [FY24 Zero Waste Goals](#).

In addition to the City of Philadelphia's waste collection services, commercial, institutional and multi-family properties contract independently for solid waste and recycling services with private hauling companies. For more information about waste management in Philadelphia, please review the [Municipal Waste Management Plan \(2019-2028\)](#) and the [City's Municipal Waste Processing and Disposal RFP](#).

The City aims to achieve its zero-waste goal by 2035 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. To complement the City's diversion and decarbonization goals, PGW is interested in exploring in the future opportunities to leverage organic waste as potential feedstock for conversion into productive end-uses. These projects should fit within the larger context of developing a comprehensive, sustainable waste management approach in Philadelphia across public and private partners operating in this sector. PGW also encourages respondents to consider methods of carbon capture, use and/or sequestration as part of potential projects.

### **Waste Streams**

An estimated 1.5 million tons<sup>1</sup> of trash are generated each year in Philadelphia, where approximately 600,000<sup>2</sup> tons are collected through Philadelphia's Sanitation Department. In accordance with Pennsylvania State Act 101, the City of Philadelphia requires commercial properties, large institutions and private companies that do not receive City collection services to submit annual reports on their waste management practices. As the country's sixth largest city by population, there is untapped potential to (i) monetize waste streams for beneficial reuse, (ii) develop circular waste stream economies and (iii) reduce emissions attributable to the City.

The City of Philadelphia controls several waste streams containing organics, including residential collections, composting facilities and the Organic Recycling Center. Additional organic waste sources for potential diversion could also include universities and colleges, schools, food processing facilities and distributors, hotels, restaurants, stadiums, and other institutions. Similarly, Philadelphia hosts many annual special events such as the Broad Street Run, Philadelphia Marathon, Mummers Parade, and Welcome America, where waste recovery partnerships could capitalize on those point sources. Partnership with anchor entities such as the City of Philadelphia, universities and the stadium district could provide initial, reliable sources for proposed waste conversion projects.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://thephiladelphiacitizen.org/reduce-waste-trash-philly/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.phlcontracts.phila.gov/bsa/external/bidDetail.sda?bidId=B1904538&parentUrl=activeBids>

In general, the following waste streams may provide feedstocks for potential conversion processes:

- Municipal solid waste (food waste, yard waste, etc.)
- Agricultural residues
- Forestry waste (woody biomass)
- Industrial byproducts (food processing waste and grease)
- Wastewater biosolids

PGW is interested in exploring both biochemical (anaerobic digestion) and thermochemical (hydrothermal carbonization, gasification, pyrolysis) processes and/or technologies to convert waste derived feedstocks into productive purposes. Projects may also consider end-use applications and additional processing to derive high-value fuels, renewable natural gas (RNG), syngas, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), hydrogen, carbon dioxide, digestate, biochar, etc.

A significant element of evaluating potential future Projects is organics separation. Respondents should provide information related to existing or potential separations facilities, describing the methodologies for separating relevant feedstock for processing.

### **PGW Project Objectives**

PGW has three broad over-arching objectives for Projects:

1. Environmental Impacts and Energy Access:
  - a. Reduce net GHG emissions attributed to Philadelphia's waste and waste processing
  - b. Develop viable pathways towards local, low-carbon energy (e.g., RNG, SAF)
  - c. Address PGW's and Philadelphia's long-term decarbonization goals
  - d. Ensure energy resilience and reliability
2. Recovering Financial Value:
  - a. Derive value from existing un- and under-utilized waste streams
  - b. Minimize project costs through existing infrastructure and real estate
  - c. Identify markets and ensure offtake and utilization of byproducts to generate the highest value
  - d. Develop a cost-competitive product(s)
  - e. Generate revenues for the sake of offsetting PGW rates and City of Philadelphia taxes
3. Economic Impact on / Spending in the City of Philadelphia and Local Community:
  - a. Projected expenditures
  - b. Reduction of existing operating expenses for waste disposal
  - c. Temporary (construction) and permanent on-site employment and payroll
  - d. Any applicable City of Philadelphia taxes

**Potential Commercial Structure Options**

PGW has identified three general options for Respondents' consideration when providing information in response to this RFI but is also open to other alternatives from Respondents. The potential commercial structure options may include the City of Philadelphia with similar roles and responsibilities as those referring to PGW:

1. PGW Ownership:
  - a. PGW roles:
    - i. Procure project and development support services from vendors
    - ii. Overall responsibility for Project financing, development, and construction
    - iii. Ongoing facility ownership and operations
    - iv. End-use customer marketing and sales
  - b. Potential "Partner" roles:
    - i. Provide design, equipment, construction, and/or development support services
    - ii. Operational training, initial period operations, potentially ongoing operations responsibilities
    - iii. Ongoing equipment monitoring and maintenance services, potentially operational support
2. "Partner" Ownership
  - a. PGW roles:
    - i. Public partnership development support
    - ii. Interconnection into PGW's natural gas distribution system
    - iii. Potentially support end-use marketing, sales, and offtake
  - b. Potential "Partner" roles:
    - i. Overall responsibilities for Project financing, development, and construction
    - ii. Own, operate and maintain facilities
    - iii. End-use customer marketing and sales
3. Hybrid: combination of the two options above, with some split of all major responsibilities

**Information Requested**

All Respondents to this RFI should address the following questions regarding their entity information and experience:

1. Business name and address of Respondent, and name and telephone number of the primary contact person.
2. Statement of the Respondent describing the Respondent's relevant experience regarding:
  - a. Organic waste diversion projects and programs
  - b. Planning, design, construction, development and operation experience related to organic waste diversion infrastructure

- c. Experience in organics separation
- d. Experience coordinating with municipal governments, waste collection and management companies and other partners to execute successful organic waste diversion projects
- e. Any additional ancillary services, such as monitoring, O&M, and workforce training

Respondents should provide answers to as many of the below questions as they feel capable of addressing:

### **Project Viability and Interest**

1. Are PGW's proposed Projects within this RFI a viable opportunity, based on your experience?
2. Do you have any recommendations for more specifically defining or designing potential Projects to increase its viability?
3. Would your entity be potentially interested in participating in potential Projects if they were to proceed? What additional critical information is needed to inform your entity's interest in participating?
4. Are there other key partners needed for ensuring the Projects' success?

### **Diversion Process Description**

1. Describe the preferred process for diverting waste feedstocks and converting them into beneficial uses (e.g. energy and other end-uses), including commercial and environmental benefits of this approach.
2. Provide detailed information on preferred waste stream feedstock sources and composition (tonnages).
3. Provide a high-level process flow diagram for proposed project, if available.
4. Describe the process for receiving existing and/or future feedstocks, including any pretreatment or loading infrastructure.

### **Technology Description**

1. What technology or complement of technologies would you be interested in deploying in Philadelphia to convert waste feedstocks into productive uses based on past experience and the waste streams identified in this RFI?
2. What organic waste conversion processes and technologies have you previously deployed? What approaches and opportunities would you recommend prioritizing for the opportunities described in this RFI?

3. Describe the approximate sized facilities and any phased approaches you’d propose for these Projects.
4. For anticipated facility size, describe general utility requirements to operate the technology – including water, sewer, electric and natural gas – as well as estimated quantities.
5. For that anticipated size of facilities, provide approximate equipment specifications for the described technology, assuming access to the levels of real estate made available in the table below:

#	Project Specifications	Available land for the entire facility		
		<1 Acre	1≤ Acres < 5	> 5 Acres
1	Organic Waste Separation			
2	Organic waste conversion equipment			
3	Processing Facility Footprint			
4	Electric/Power requirements (kWh/day)			
5	Feed Water requirements (gal/day)			
6	Other utility/feedstock requirements			
7	Wastewater discharge (gal/day)			
8	CO2 Emissions (kg CO2/day)			
10	Required labor to operate			
11	Other effluents?			
12	Upfront CAPEX costs: ranges or order of magnitude			
13	Ongoing O&M: ranges or order of magnitude			

**End-Product(s) Description**

1. What waste conversion products have you previously produced and for what end-use markets?
2. What approaches and opportunities would you recommend prioritizing for the opportunities described in this RFI pursuant to a subsequent RFP or RFQ?
3. Include any additional relevant monetization strategies for biproducts and estimated annual revenues.

**Commercial Structure**

1. Please respond to the Commercial Structure Alternatives defined above – If your entity would be interested in participating in any future Projects:
  - a. Which alternative(s) could be viable?
  - b. Which would you consider to be the most optimal, and why?
  - c. Is there an alternate model you would consider to be optimal that is not expressed in this RFI?

2. For your preferred model:
  - a. Describe anticipated project development, design, construction, financing, and ongoing ownership and maintenance responsibilities (including potential financial splits) to best maximize respective capabilities, experience, and public subsidies.
  - b. Describe marketing and sales responsibilities of the end use product and any associated energy credits.
  - c. Generally describe how organic waste diversion projects might be structured to best maximize and allocate project revenues?
  - d. What other critical factors would need to be resolved to respond to the above prompts?
  - e. Do you have experience in leveraging public funding, incentives or tax credits? Describe the application of public subsidies that may be relevant for your preferred model.
  - f. How would you anticipate assigning and structuring all costs, expenses, and fees for accepting, separating, and processing the waste? How is cost recovery considered?
3. Describe any similar previous projects in which you have partnered with public entities in developing similar projects

### **General**

1. What other critical considerations are important in successfully developing and operating the types of projects addressed in this RFI?
2. Describe the major project development steps and timelines PGW could anticipate, either generally or as ranges.
3. Are there any additional comments and considerations to note beyond those posed above? Do you have any questions for PGW on potential Projects?
4. What would be the minimum amount of time required by the Respondent for developing and submitting a detailed proposal for Projects after issuance of a potential formal RFQ or RFP solicitation?
5. What additional project developments costs, tasks, and analyses (e.g., environmental impact, traffic study, permitting) to be considered beyond the project capital and operating costs addressed in the technical section above?
6. What are the top risks for successful delivery of potential Projects or preferred technologies, and how may they be addressed?
7. Are there major local, state or federal regulatory or other issues that could hinder the feasibility of potential Projects? How could they be addressed?

8. Do you have experience in stakeholder planning and engagement? How might local government, private partners and communities be leveraged to support successful Projects?
9. Describe any existing facilities and/or proposed locations that may be leveraged for siting potential facilities for a Philadelphia project described in this RFI?

## Partnering/Development Issues

PGW is a collection of assets owned by the City of Philadelphia. Respondents should be aware of the following when providing information relating to potential public-private partnership options:

- PGW is unable to form a traditional joint venture with a third party because it cannot own stock nor can it guarantee the debts of third parties.
- For any agreement greater than 4 years, PGW contracts are usually done via an authority as conduit, through back-to-back agreements.
- Typically, PGW's participation in development arrangements employ lease, leaseback and rental payment mechanisms.
- PGW employees may not be permitted to work for a third party, or on facilities controlled by a third party.

## Reservation of Rights; No Offer

This RFI and the process it describes are for the sole and exclusive benefit of PGW. No other party, including any Respondent to this RFI or future proposer to any competitive solicitation which may be issued by PGW, is intended to be granted any rights hereunder.

This RFI is intended solely to obtain information to assist PGW and the City to evaluate potential alternative options for Projects, including an analysis of financial and operational alternatives that may include public-private participation. However, this RFI is an inquiry only. No contract or agreement will be entered into as a result of this process, nor does this RFI initiate a formal procurement or represent a commitment to issue a RFQ or RFP in the future. Respondents choosing to respond to this RFI will not, merely by virtue of submitting such a response, be deemed to be "bidders" or "proposers" on potential Projects in any sense, and no such Respondent will have any preference, special designation, advantage or disadvantage whatsoever in any subsequent activities related to the Projects. The information contained in the responses to this RFI, however, will help PGW and the City to advance evaluation and development efforts for potential Projects, which may result in the launch of a formal Project(s) and associated procurement activities.

**Responses to this RFI should be submitted on or before May 13, 2026.**