



LORAIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
A Department of Lorain County Board of Commissioners
<https://loraincountyohio.gov/solidwaste>

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Responses to Questions for the Sustainability Center Exhibit Design RFP: January 24, 2023

Question 1:

Budget question: When you say "It is desired that the proposed recommendation does not exceed \$300,000." I'm not clear what is included in the \$300K.

- Does budget refer to design only?
- Both design and production/installation?
- Production/installation only? Propose design fee?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q1: This is an overall budget estimate to include design and production/installation. The District understands there may be a general design cost. The District would be interested in a separated design fee and budget for individual exhibits, so it is comprehensible to request additional sponsorship, grant funding, and support if reasonable beyond the budget. Phased approaches are acceptable if the Respondent has vision beyond the \$300,000.

Question 2:

Exhibit space question: Please confirm that all exhibits will be in the 61' x 42' Exhibit Room (2,562 sq feet).

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q2: The Exhibit Room is the primary room/highest importance, but the District is interested in vision for the other rooms such as the pedestrian walkway and reception area. Other spaces on a lower priority include the conference rooms, entrance, and kitchen area.

Question 3:

Audience questions: You state "The primary audience of this project is K-12 students. The majority of organized tours are made up of school-age children."

- Do you expect that the tours will be led by a guide and that exhibits will be facilitated by the guide?
- Do you expect that the exhibits will be self-guided?
- Do you expect that the exhibit experience will be the same for individual visitors as for field trip/group tours?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q3: The District would like the displays in the exhibit area to be mainly self-guided. The vision is that the District will give a presentation in the conference space and then the group will move into the exhibit area to interact with the displays. There will be many classes of K-12 coming through the center – however the District wants this center to have displays that engage adults as well, the District knows that adults are able to affect a behavior change in the household right now, whereas changing the idea of sustainability for students will affect behavior for years to come. The District does expect the exhibit experience to be the same for individuals as for group tours. Adults vary from parents to elected officials.

Question 4:

Content question: You list ideas which need to be incorporated into the exhibits.

- Do you have already developed educational programming that reinforces these ideas and should be utilized in the exhibits?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q4: Our Community Outreach Coordinator currently has presentations she offers to students in their classrooms. Our Coordinator will adjust tours for education standards to assist meeting the teacher's curriculum needs.

Question 5:

Is there a possibility that the budget for this project gets increased?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q5: The District's request for specific exhibit costs is to assist the District's goal in expanding the budget with more sponsorship/grant opportunities. The District understands limitations with the budget, but the proposal process will give us guidelines for what the District can do with our current budget as well as other possible exhibits when more funds become available in future phases. Phase timeframes can be suggested by the Respondent (ex. X number of months for group of exhibits).

Question 6:

For the sorting interactive are you looking for an all new custom designed program or do you prefer to license the existing interactive from Montgomery County?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q6: The District would like an updated version/quality/different graphics of the current software or open to a custom program in order to achieve a similar result.

Question 7:

Will sanitized recycled objects be available to use in the exhibit, possibly in large bulk?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q7: Materials collected at the Lorain county collection center will be open to be used in displays (ex. aluminum cans, plastic bottles, old tv).

Question 8:

The exhibit room is fairly large for the exhibit budget. Is the intention for the space to operate more as an education, program-based room rather than a self-facilitated set of exhibits?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q8: The District is interested in fun, self-facilitated educational exhibits. These can range from simple flip tiles/manual manipulated exhibits to some with extra technology.

Question 9:

Are renovations to electrical and lighting in the exhibition spaces in a separate budget?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q9: This type of work would be in a separate budget to be discussed with the landlord (Lorain County Port Authority). The District has the ability to reasonably request this type of work.

Question 10:

Are there union installation requirements?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q10: Ohio is a prevailing wage state.

Ohio's prevailing wage laws apply to all public improvements financed in whole or in part by public funds when the total overall project cost is fairly estimated to be more than \$250,000 for new construction or \$75,000 for reconstruction, enlargement, alteration, repair, remodeling, renovation, or painting.

Question 11:

Should the submission PDF file prove too large for successful email, may a link to the PDF via Dropbox be submitted?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q11: Yes, please include a link in a PDF submission.

Question 12:

As an exhibit design firm, would it be best for us to find a fabrication partner to team with for this proposal? Or is the County willing to put the fabrication portion out for bid after the design is complete?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q12: The fabrication or installation may be a subcontractor to the design firm.

Question 13:

Does the software for the "conveyor belt sorting challenge" already exist, or is the creation of that software part of the scope of the project?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q13: There is existing software used at the Montgomery County Environmental Learning Center in Ohio. The District would like an updated version/quality/different graphics of the current software or open to a custom program in order to achieve a similar result.

Question 14:

What is the expected timeline for the completion of the project?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q14: The District would like to have exhibit available to the public by Earth Day 2024 (April 22). The District understands under if more budget becomes available additional phases with more exhibits may take place sooner or after this date.

Question 15:

Is there solid funding for the \$300,000.00 budget?

We were concerned about is paragraph: Each payment obligation of Lorain County Solid Waste Management District is conditioned upon the availability of government funds appropriated or allocated for the payment of this obligation.

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q15: This is a formality. The District is dedicated to this project. The District's request for specific exhibit costs is to assist the District's goal in expanding the budget with more sponsorship/grant opportunities. The District understands limitations with the budget, but the proposal process will give us guidelines for what the District can do with our current budget as well as other possible exhibits when more funds become available in future phases. Phase timeframes can be suggested by the Respondent (ex. X number of months for group of exhibits).

Question 16:

Is there an incumbent working with you on this? If not, are you open to working to firms outside of the state of Ohio.

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q16: The District is not currently working with an exhibit designer. There is no preference to inside or outside of Ohio. The District would like work with a firm which best meets the needs for the space and ease of working with the firm.

Question 17:

The target audience is very wide. Exhibits designed for young children are very different than high school age to adult. Can you narrow this down?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q17: The District would like the displays in the exhibit area to be mainly self-guided. The vision is that the District will give a presentation in the conference space and then the group will move into the exhibit area to interact with the displays. There will be many classes of K-12 coming through the center – however the District wants this center to have displays that engage adults as well, the District knows that adults are able to affect a behavior change in the household right now, whereas changing the idea of sustainability for students will affect behavior for years to come. The District does expect the exhibit experience to be the same for individuals as for group tours. Adults vary from parents to elected officials.

Question 18:

Page count in the submission format is pretty low. Can we add age more pages to the qualifications section?

Lorain County SWMD Response to Q18: The District wants to keep it concise to make the proposal manageable for respondents. You may add additional information as an addendum if you wish.