RFP Exhibit A

STATE OF MINNESOTA
GRANT CONTRACT

This grant contract is between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Commissioner of Commerce ("State") and Grantee name (according to Carla's instructions), Address, City, State, Zip ("Grantee").

Recitals

1. Under Minn. Stat. § 216C.02, subd. 1, the State is empowered to enter into this grant.
2. The State is in need of assistance in the promote the installation of solar energy systems on Minnesota schools, while using the opportunity to integrate renewable energy use into school curriculum.
3. The Grantee represents that it is duly qualified and agrees to perform all services described in this grant contract to the satisfaction of the State. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, subd.1, the Grantee agrees to minimize administrative costs as a condition of this grant.

Grant Contract

1 Term of Grant Contract

1.1 ***Effective date*:** mm/dd/yyyy, or the date the State obtains all required signatures under Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, subd. 5, whichever is later. Per, Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, subd. 7, no payments will be made to the Grantee until this grant contract is fully executed. **The Grantee must not begin work under this grant contract until this contract is fully executed and the Grantee has been notified by the State's Authorized Representative to begin the work.**

1.2 ***Expiration date*:** mm/dd/yyyy, or until all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever occurs first.

1.3 ***Survival of Terms.*** The following clauses survive the expiration or cancellation of this grant contract: 8. Liability; 9. State Audits; 10. Government Data Practices and Intellectual Property; 12. Publicity and Endorsement; 13. Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue; and 15. Data Disclosure.

2 Grantee's Duties

The Grantee, who is not a state employee, will:

2.1 Comply with required grants management policies and procedures set forth through Minn. Stat. § 16B.97, Subd. 4 (a) (1).

2.2 Execute the duties set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached and incorporated into this grant contract.

3 Time

The Grantee must comply with all the time requirements described in this grant contract. In the performance of this grant contract, time is of the essence.

4 Consideration and Payment

4.1 ***Consideration***. The State will pay for all services performed by the Grantee under this grant contract as follows:

4.1.1 ***Compensation.*** The Grantee will not exceed **Grant Amount in Words** dollars ($##,###.00) of actual eligible costs incurred in the performance of the Grantee's duties according to the breakdown of costs contained in the grant budget (Exhibit B), which is attached and incorporated into this grant contract.

4.1.2 ***Total Obligation*.** The total obligation of the State for all compensation and reimbursements to the Grantee under this grant contract will not exceed **Grant Amount in Words** dollars ($##,###.00) of the total actual, eligible costs incurred in the performance of the Grantee's duties specified in Exhibit A.

4.2 ***Payment***

4.2.1 ***Invoices.*** The State will promptly pay the Grantee after the Grantee presents an itemized invoice for the services actually performed and the State's Authorized Representative accepts

the invoiced services. Invoices must be submitted timely and according to the schedule as outlined in Exhibit A.

4.2.2 ***Retainage***. No more than 95 percent of the amount due under this grant contract may be paid until the final product of this grant contract has been reviewed by the State's Authorized Representative. The balance due will be paid when the State's Authorized Representative determines that the Grantee has satisfactorily fulfilled all the terms of this grant contract.

4.2.3 ***Unexpended Funds***. The Grantee must promptly return to the State any unexpended funds that have not been accounted for annually in a financial report to the State due at grant closeout.

Important: Regarding Clause 4.3:

Below are two options for the School, as the Grantee, to select relating to Contracting and Bidding Requirements. The Grantee may select which option is most suitable in consultation with their procurement office.

- The first, "Standard Grant Contract" represents the State's standard grant contract language for nongovernmental organizations.
- The second, "Identifying as a Municipality" is for schools who, for purposes of entering into an agreement with a subcontractor/solar developer, wishes to identify as a municipality according to Minn. Stat. §471.345.

4.3 ***STANDARD GRANT CONTRACT: Contracting and Bidding Requirements***

4.3.1 Any services and/or materials that are expected to cost $100,000 or more must undergo a formal notice and bidding process.

4.3.2 Services and/or materials that are expected to cost between $25,000 and $99,999 must be competitively awarded based on a minimum of three (3) verbal quotes or bids.

4.3.3 Services and/or materials that are expected to cost between $10,000 and $24,999 must be competitively awarded based on a minimum of two (2) verbal quotes or bids or awarded to a targeted vendor.

4.3.4 The grantee must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that targeted vendors from businesses with active certifications through these entities are used when possible:

4.3.4.1 State Department of Administration's Certified Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged and Veteran-Owned Vendor List

4.3.4.2 Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business Program: MCUB: Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business Program

4.3.4.3 Small Business Certification Program through Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and City of St. Paul: Central Certification Directory

4.3.5 The grantee must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts

4.3.6 The grantee must maintain support documentation of the purchasing or bidding process used to contract services in their financial records, including support documentation justifying a single/sole source bid, if applicable.

4.3.7 Notwithstanding 4.4.1 - 4.4.4 above, the State may waive bidding process requirements when:

4.3.7.1 Vendors included in response to competitive grant request for proposal process were approved and incorporated as an approved work plan for the grant.

4.3.7.2 It is determined there is only one legitimate or practical source for such materials or services and that Grantee has established a fair and reasonable price.

4.3.8 For projects that include construction work of $25,000 or more, prevailing wage rules apply per Minn. Stat. §§177.41 through 177.44. These rules require that the wages of laborers and workers should be comparable to wages paid for similar work in the community as a whole.

4.3.9 The Grantee must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred in MN: http://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/debarredreport.asp.

4.3 IDENTIFYING AS A MUNICIPALITY: Contracting and Bidding Requirements

(a) Per Minn. Stat. §471.345, grantees that are municipalities as defined in Subd. 1 must follow the law.

(b) Applicants entering into a Guaranteed Energy Savings contract as defined in Minn. Stat. §§471.345, Subd. 13, must seek proposals from multiple qualified providers by publishing notice of the proposed contract in the school board's official newspaper and in other publications if the board determines that additional publication is necessary to notify multiple qualified providers.

(c) For projects that include construction work, prevailing wage rules apply per Minn. Stat. §§177.41 through 177.44. These rules require that the wages of laborers and workers should be comparable to wages paid for similar work in the community as a whole.

(d) The grantee must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred in MN: http://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/debarredreport.asp

4.4 ***Budget Categories.*** Upon notice to and written approval by the State's Authorized Representative, the Grantee's budget for any one category in Exhibit B may be increased by up to 10% of the amount shown in Exhibit B for that category, with the amount of the increase moved from one or more other categories in Exhibit B. To move more than 10% into a budget category from another budget category or categories will require an amendment to the grant contract.

5 Conditions of Payment

All services provided by the Grantee under this grant contract must be performed to the State's satisfaction, as determined at the sole discretion of the State's Authorized Representative and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. The Grantee will not receive payment for work found by the State to be unsatisfactory or performed in violation of federal, state, or local law.

6 Authorized Representative

The State's Authorized Representative, **Mandi Schienebeck**, Solar for Schools Program Administrator Amanda.Schienebeck@state.mn.us, 651-539-1829, or their successor, has the responsibility to monitor the Grantee's performance and the authority to accept the services provided under this grant contract. If the services are satisfactory, the State's Authorized Representative will certify acceptance on each invoice submitted for payment.

The Grantee's Authorized Representative is **First and Last Name,** Title, email e-mail address, phone ###-###-#### or their successor. If the Grantee's Authorized Representative changes at any time during this grant contract, the Grantee must immediately notify the State.

7 Assignment, Amendments, Waiver, and Grant Contract Complete

7.1 ***Assignment.*** The Grantee shall neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this grant contract without the prior written consent of the State and a fully executed Assignment Agreement, executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved this grant contract, or their successors in office.

7.2 ***Amendments.*** Any amendments to this grant contract must be in writing and will not be effective until it has been executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved the original grant contract, or their successors in office.

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7.3 ***Waiver.*** If the State fails to enforce any provision of this grant contract, that failure does not waive the provision or the State's right to enforce it.

7.4 ***Grant Contract Complete.*** This grant contract contains all negotiations and agreements between the State and the Grantee. No other understanding regarding this grant contract, whether written or oral, may be used to bind either party.

8 Liability

The Grantee must indemnify, save, and hold the State, its agents, and employees harmless from any claims or causes of action, including attorney's fees incurred by the State, arising from the performance of this grant contract by the Grantee or the Grantee's agents or employees. This clause will not be construed to bar any legal remedies the Grantee may have for the State's failure to fulfill its obligations under this grant contract.

9 State Audits

Under Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, Subd.8, the Grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the Grantee or other party relevant to this grant contract agreement or transaction are subject to examination by the Commissioner of Administration, by the State granting agency and/or the State Auditor or Legislative Auditor, as appropriate, for a minimum of six years from the end of this grant contract agreement, receipt and approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all state and program retention requirements, whichever is later

10 Government Data Practices and Intellectual Property Rights

10.1 ***Government Data Practices***. The Grantee and State must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, as it applies to all data provided by the State under this grant contract, and as it applies to all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by the Grantee under this grant contract. The civil remedies of Minn. Stat. § 13.08 apply to the release of the data referred to in this clause by either the Grantee or the State. If the Grantee receives a request to release the data referred to in this Clause, the Grantee must immediately notify the State. The State will give the Grantee instructions concerning the release of the data to the requesting party before the data is released. The Grantee's response to the request shall comply with applicable law.

10.2 ***Intellectual Property Rights.*** The Grantee shall own all rights, title, and interest in all of the intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trade secrets, trademarks, and service marks in the works and documents. The "works" means all inventions, improvements, discoveries (whether or not patentable), databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, and disks conceived, reduced to practice, created or originated by the Grantee, its employees, agents, and subcontractors, either individually or jointly with others in the performance of this grant contract. "Works" includes documents. The "documents" are the originals of any databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, disks, or other materials, whether in tangible or electronic forms, prepared by the Grantee, its employees, agents, or subcontractors, in the performance of this grant contract.

10.3 ***License to the State***. Subject to the terms and conditions of this grant contract, the Grantee hereby grants to the State a perpetual, irrevocable, no-fee right and license to make, have made, reproduce, modify distribute, perform and otherwise use the works and documents for any and all purposes, in all forms and manners that the State, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate. The Grantee shall upon the request of the State, execute all papers and perform all other acts necessary, to document and secure said right and license to the works and documents by the State. At the request of the State, the Grantee shall permit the State to inspect the original documents and provide a copy of any of the document to the State, without cost, for use by the State in any manner the State, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate.

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10.4 ***Obligations***. Grantee represents and warrants that materials produced or used under this grant contract do not and will not infringe upon any intellectual property rights of other persons or entities including but not limited to patents, copyrights, trade secrets, trade names, and service marks and names. Grantee shall indemnify and defend the State, at Grantee's expense, from any action or claim brought against the State to the extent that it is based on a claim that all or part of the materials infringe upon the intellectual property rights of another. Grantee shall be responsible for payment of any and all such claims, demands, obligations, liabilities, costs, and damages including, but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees arising out of this grant contract, amendments and supplements thereto, which are attributable to such claims or actions.

If such a claim or action arises, or in Grantee's or the State's opinion is likely to arise, Grantee shall, at the State's discretion, either procure for the State the right or license to continue using the materials at issue or replace or modify the allegedly infringing materials. This remedy shall be in addition to and shall not be exclusive to other remedies provided by law.

11 Workers' Compensation

The Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with Minn. Stat. § 176.181, subd. 2, pertaining to workers' compensation insurance coverage. The Grantee's employees and agents will not be considered State employees. Any claims that may arise under the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act on behalf of these employees and any claims made by any third party as a consequence of any act or omission on the part of these employees are in no way the State's obligation or responsibility.

12 Publicity and Endorsement

12.1 ***Publicity***. Any publicity regarding the subject matter of this grant contract must identify the State as the sponsoring agency and must not be released without prior written approval from the State's Authorized Representative. For purposes of this provision, publicity includes notices, informational pamphlets, press releases, research, reports, signs, and similar public notices prepared by or for the Grantee individually or jointly with others, or any subcontractors, with respect to the program, publications, or services provided resulting from this grant contract. All projects primarily funded by state grant appropriations must publicly credit the State of Minnesota, including on the grantee's website when practicable. For any public communications about the solar project, to school board, on websites, newsletters, news media, social media, etc., the Grantee will recognize funding from the Minnesota Department of Commerce Solar for Schools Program. See *Exhibit A, Task 4. Promotion* for additional details pertaining to project promotion and publicity.

12.2 ***Endorsement***. The Grantee must not claim that the State endorses its products or services.

13 Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue

Minnesota law, without regard to its choice-of-law provisions, governs this grant contract. Venue for all legal proceedings out of this grant contract, or its breach, must be in the appropriate state or federal court with competent jurisdiction in Ramsey County, Minnesota.

14 Termination

14.1 ***(a) Without Cause.***

The State may terminate this grant contract without cause, upon 30 days' written notice to the Grantee. Upon termination, the Grantee will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed.

(b) With Cause. The State may immediately terminate this grant contract if the State finds that there has been a failure to comply with the provisions of this grant contract, that reasonable progress has not been made or that the purposes for which the funds were granted have not been or will not be fulfilled. The State may take action to protect the interests of the State of Minnesota, including the refusal to disburse additional funds and requiring the return of all or part of the funds already

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disbursed. Per 16B.991, the State must immediately terminate this grant contract if the recipient is convicted of a criminal offense related to a state grant.

14.2 ***The Commissioner of Administration*** may immediately and unilaterally cancel this grant contract agreement if further performance under the agreement would not serve agency purposes, or it is not in the best interest of the State.

14.3 ***Termination for Insufficient Funding.*** The State may immediately terminate this grant contract if: 1) it does not obtain funding from the Minnesota Legislature, or other funding source; or 2) if funding cannot be continued at a level sufficient to allow for the payment of the services covered here. Termination must be by written or electronic notice to the Grantee. The State is not obligated to pay for any services that are provided after notice and effective date of termination. However, the Grantee will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed to the extent that funds are available. The State will not be assessed any penalty if the grant contract is terminated because of the decision of the Minnesota Legislature, or other funding source, not to appropriate funds. The State must provide the Grantee notice of the lack of funding within a reasonable time of the State's receiving that notice.

15 Data Disclosure

Under Minn. Stat. § 270C.65, subd. 3, and other applicable law, the Grantee consents to disclosure of its social security number, federal employer tax identification number, and/or Minnesota tax identification number, already provided to the State, to federal and state tax agencies and state personnel involved in the payment of state obligations. These identification numbers may be used in the enforcement of federal and state tax laws which could result in action requiring the Grantee to file state tax returns and pay delinquent state tax liabilities, if any.

1. **STATE ENCUMBRANCE VERIFICATION**

Individual certifies that funds have been encumbered as required by Minn. Stat. §§ 16A.15 and 16C.05

Signed:

Name:

Title:

Date:

Grant Contract / PO:

2. **GRANTEE NAME (ACCORDING TO CARLA'S INSTRUCTIONS)**

The Grantee certifies that the appropriate person(s) have executed the grant contract on behalf of the Grantee as required by applicable articles, bylaws, resolutions, or ordinances.

By:

Name:

Title:

Date:

3. **MN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

(with delegated authority)

By:

Name:

Title:

Date:

Distribution:

MN Dept. of Commerce, Accounting Dept.
Grantee
State's Authorized Representative (copy)

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