



Council Agenda Item: Resolution 25-0413R

MEETING DATE: May 27, 2025

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH EVER-GREEN ENERGY, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A CUSTOMER PORTAL TO BENCHMARK REAL-TIME ENERGY USAGE FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$96,500.

SUBMITTED BY: Patti Stalvig, Purchasing Agent in collaboration with Jim Benning, Director of Public Works and Utilities and Josh Bailey, City Auditor.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: On November, 25, 2024, council approved resolution 24-0903R accepting a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce Benchmarking Grant program to support upgrades to Comfort Systems and Duluth Energy Systems to meet required State of Minnesota energy use data reporting.

BACKGROUND: The City was awarded a grant in the amount of \$428,366 to support upgrades that will enable both Comfort Systems and Duluth Energy Systems to track and report commercial building energy usage in compliance with the recently-enacted State of Minnesota energy benchmarking standards in MN Statute 216C.331, which imposes phased requirements effective on June 1, 2025, for designated "Class 1" commercial buildings and June 1, 2026, for "Class 2" commercial buildings. The grant awards \$272,500 for Ever-Green Energy Utility Consulting, which includes hot water and steam meter upgrades and professional and technical services to develop and implement the customer portal. Since the City will procure on Duluth Energy Systems' behalf the upgraded meters and related hardware, the agreement with Ever-Green Energy is only for professional and technical services in the amount of \$96,500.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: The working fund of this project will be 540-920-1493-5310 (steam, steam department, steam transmission and distribution, contract services). The \$96,500 agreement will be fully funded by the Minnesota Department of Commerce Benchmarking Grant. There will be a zero-dollar net impact to the City's Steam fund.

OPTIONS: Approve or potentially face fines and penalties.

NECESSARY ACTION: Approve award of contract

ATTACHMENTS: None