

Request for Proposals – On-line Interactive Risks & Benefits Calculator

New Brunswick Environmental Network

1. Project Overview

The *Online Interactive Risks & Benefits Calculator* is a bilingual on-line tool that allows users to assess current or planned development projects – anything from a mine to a subdivision to a wind farm. These projects are evaluated based on the risks and benefits associated with the project, as well as who carries the risks and who benefits from the project. Risks and benefits are assessed in eight categories, including community, health, and nature and wildlife. Within each category, sub-categories include local businesses, jobs, noise, aesthetics, air quality, species-at-risk, and others.

A given project can be assessed more than once. Users are able to view others' assessments and, if they disagree with the score, are encouraged to do their own assessment. Different users will have different perspectives, which may result in different scores being given to the same project. This allows for users to think critically about the different perspectives and triangulate the scores to help them decide what position they might want to take on a given development project. The tool also allows for users to do a map-based or keyword-based search that cross-cuts all development projects to see who has risked the most and who has benefitted the most over time in a particular region among the following groups: the ecosystem, citizens, government, industry.

Other organizations across the country have expressed an interest in this tool. The NBEN would like the ability to license it to other organizations that can tailor it and brand it with their own logo & look.

2. About the New Brunswick Environmental Network

The New Brunswick Environmental Network (NBEN), established in 1991, is a non-profit communications network that links together over 100 non-profit environmental organizations in New Brunswick. The role of the NBEN is to improve communication and co-operation among environmental groups and between these groups, government and other sectors. The NBEN provides educational opportunities for its member and associate groups and encourages the growth of the environmental movement in New Brunswick. The NBEN is not an advocacy group and does not take positions on any issue.

3. Target Audience

The primary users of the tool will be representatives of citizen-based environmental groups and the general public. Project proponents (developers) may also wish to complete assessments for

their projects. Additionally, government representatives (municipal, provincial, federal) may use the tool but likely as “viewers” and not “assessors”.

4. Detailed Description

Each project is given a grade (A+ through to F), depending on the risks and benefits identified by the user. Each risk and benefit is weighted equally, and the grade increases or decreases depending on the numbers of people, wildlife populations, or species-at-risk affected, the size of the area impacted, and whether risks and benefits are short- or long-term.

The projects will be located on an interactive map that allows users to view projects provincially (New Brunswick) and zoom in to regions. The map should have some information in a pop-up window and then a link to the detailed information.

Users will be able to search projects by keyword (project name, categories, groups affected, type of project).

For detailed information about calculating grades, as well as a page-by-page content layout (not including map and search function), see Appendix 1. An early prototype of the tool can be found at <http://costs.nben.ca>.

5. Scope of Work & Technical Requirements

Phase I:

- Development of a fully-functional on-line risks and benefits calculator that includes the following
 - Bilingual (an English version and a French version that can toggle back and forth; the NBEN will provide translations of text)
 - Interactive map (as described above)
 - Search function (as described above)
 - Users’ ability to change/correct/adjust their assessments (via direct link not login)
 - Admin access to adjust/delete any of the assessments
 - Uses one of the platforms already used by the NBEN
 - Joomla! (used for www.nben.ca, the [Eco-Forum](#), and the [Eco-Community](#))
 - CiviCRM (used for our contact database, [Green Pages](#), and [Earth Ed](#))
 - Attractive and user-friendly look and feel

Phase II:

- Development of a license-able version that can be tailored to other organizations in look and database fields, which could be hosted by the NBEN or the other organization.

Phase III:

- On-going technical support for the tool.

6. Timeline

January 29, 2018	Proposals due
January 31 ,2018	Successful proponent notified
March 15, 2018	Phase I complete
August 31 ,2018	Phase II complete

7. Principal Point of Contact

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8. Budget

The budget for Phase I is \$8,000-\$12,000 and for Phase II is \$2,000-\$3,000.

9. Criteria for Selection

The successful proponent will be selected using the following criteria:

- Technical capacity to implement the project
- Communication skills and ease of working relationship
- Demonstrated ability to deliver on time and on budget

10. Proposal Format

Proposals should be in MS Word or PDF formats and submitted to nben@nben.ca. Proposals should include information about the proponent, the approach in delivering on the project, timelines for interfacing/receiving feedback from the NBEN at different stages of the project, and a minimum of two references for similar work.