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Ideas sought for low carbon energy supply

The energy industry is being called upon to submit innovative proposals that will deliver reliable and affordable low-carbon electricity to meet up to 100 per cent of the State Government's electricity usage.

The Low Carbon Electricity Supply and Services Expression of Interest is seeking ideas that will service up to 481 gigawatt hours of electricity per annum for Government sites.

Premier Jay Weatherill said the State Government was using the power of its energy procurement to drive innovation in low-carbon technologies.

"We are determined to make Adelaide a showcase city for low-carbon and clean technologies, to attract investment, drive innovation and create new jobs," Mr Weatherill said.

"We have significant runs already on the board. We have created thousands of jobs and already generated \$6.6 billion of investment in renewable energy, of which 40 per cent is located in regional South Australia," he said.

"One of our major commitments is to make the City of Adelaide the world's first carbon neutral city, and this EOI is a further step towards our ambitious low-carbon goals.

Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis said the EOI process was an innovative approach as in the past, the State Government has purchased standard grid electricity from a retailer to meet its all of its electricity needs.

The current agreements expire in late 2016 for the small Government sites and 2017 for large Government sites.

"This EOI process is an example of how the State Government is helping facilitate a responsible, efficient and cost-effective transition towards to a lower emission future," Mr Koutsantonis said.

"A broad range of generation technologies are invited to respond to the EOI. Proposals could include, but not be limited to, technologies such as wind, solar PV, solar thermal, batteries, hydrostorage and efficient gas or hybrid proposals.

"We will require that proposals do not negatively affect on energy security, reliability and wholesale prices in the national electricity market.

"We will also encourage partnerships with South Australian companies."

The EOI comes as Mr Weatherill and Climate Change Minister Ian Hunter prepare to enter global climate change talks in Paris later this month.

Media contact: Chris Burford 0419 567 989 | Lucy Hood 0418 171 279

“The 2015 Paris Climate Conference may be the most important climate change meeting ever held,” Mr Weatherill said.

“It gives South Australia a chance to invite the world to invest in our emerging renewable energy technology and the innovations that will drive the low-carbon economy that is emerging around the world.”

The Low Carbon Electricity Supply and Services Expressions of Interest close on 24 December 2015 at 12pm Australian Central Standard Time.

To lodge a response or to get more information about how to make a submission visit www.tenders.sa.gov.au