

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT:Essex County

STATE: NJ

PROJECT TITLE : Solar Panels and Environmental Education (NJ)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	DE-EE0000426		GO426

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

B3.14 Small-scale educational facilities Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of small-scale educational facilities (including, but not limited to, conventional teaching laboratories, libraries, classroom facilities, auditoriums, museums, visitor centers, exhibits, and associated offices) within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Operation may include, but is not limited to, purchase, installation, and operation of equipment (such as audio/visual and laboratory equipment) commensurate with the educational purpose of the facility.

Rationale for determination:

The Department of Energy is proposing to provide funding to Essex County, New Jersey to install solar panels on the roof of the Center and install environmental education exhibits based on energy efficiency within the Center. A NEPA determination of a categorical exclusion A9, B3.1, and B5.1, was signed 5/2/2011 for these activities.

This NEPA review is being conducted for the following new tasks: the purchase of renewable energy outreach materials and educational supplies, and a solar powered greenhouse kit.

The Essex County Environmental Center is proposing to use federal funding to purchase renewable energy interactive outreach materials and educational supplies to compliment the permanent in-house exhibits. These educational materials would be mobile and would be able to be taken to schools, community centers, libraries, and other venues the Environmental Center is presenting its energy education programs. Additionally, the Environmental Center would purchase a solar powered greenhouse education kit. This would serve as a teaching space for energy conservation and environmental education. The solar powered greenhouse would be constructed at the Environmental Center.

The National Register of Historic Places does not identify any historic or cultural resources near the project site.

Prime farmland, wetlands, and floodplains are not known to occur at the project site. Therefore, no impacts to these resources are anticipated.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the purchase of renewable energy outreach materials and educational supplies and a solar powered greenhouse kit would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," and B3.14 "Small-scale educational facilities" and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE

Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

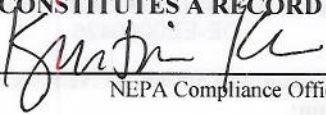
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

The previous determination is still applicable to this project.

Diana Heyder 12/11/2013

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

12/10/2013

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____

The Department of Energy is proposing to provide funding to Essex County, New Jersey to install solar panels on the roof of the Center and install environmental education exhibits based on energy efficiency within the Center. A NEPA determination of a categorical exclusion AB, BS-1, and BS-1 was signed 05/20/11 for these activities.

This NEPA review is being conducted for the following new tasks: the purchase of renewable energy outreach materials and educational supplies, and a solar powered greenhouse kit.

The Essex County Environmental Center is proposing to use federal funding to purchase renewable energy interactive outreach materials and educational supplies to complement the permanent in-house exhibits. These educational materials would be mobile and would be able to be taken to schools, community centers, libraries, and other venues. The Environmental Center is presenting its energy education program. Additionally, the Environmental Center would purchase a solar powered greenhouse education kit. This would serve as a teaching space for energy conservation and environmental education. The solar powered greenhouse would be located at the Environmental Center.

The National Register of Historic Places does not identify any historic or cultural resources near the project site. Prime farmland, wetlands, and floodplains are not known to occur at the project site. Therefore, no impacts to these resources are anticipated.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the purchase of renewable energy outreach materials and educational supplies and a solar powered greenhouse kit would not have a significant impact on human health and the environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion AB "information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," and BS-1 "small-scale educational facilities," and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA REVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award.

from the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification or approval from the DOE