

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



**RECIPIENT:** International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology (ICAST)

**STATE:** CO

**PROJECT TITLE :** Training the Next Generation of Heat Pump Technicians

|  |                                      |                            |                   |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> | <b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> | <b>NEPA Control Number</b> | <b>CID Number</b> |
| DE-FOA-002196                                  | DE-EE0009741                         | GFO-0009741-001            |                   |

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

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

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|--|--|
| <b>A9<br/>Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b> | 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.) |
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology (ICAST) in Denver, CO to develop educational resources aimed at target stakeholder groups to develop necessary training relating to HVAC technologies, including creating and testing a new curriculum in partnership with Santa Fe Community College (SFCC). The project would be completed over two Budget Periods (BPs) with a Go/No-Go decision point between each BP. This NEPA determination is applicable to both BPs.

The core scope of the work would be to develop a project team including an advisory board of stakeholders, creating training courses and materials, and testing them on several cohorts of trainees. In BP1, this would include drafting an initial pilot curriculum and educational modules for both online classroom study and an on-the-job-training (OJT) program. Potential trainees would be recruited, including established professionals with experience and entry-level members of the community who would like to pursue a career in the HVAC industry. The contractor network of ICAST would be utilized to recruit trainees. Multi-family housing and commercial building projects already planning installation of cold-climate air source heat pumps (ccASHP) independent of the DOE funded project would be identified for OJT partnerships and project sites. Finally, feedback would be collected from stakeholders and trainees to inform the curriculum and to develop a pilot curriculum for a larger number of trainees in BP2.

BP2 would consist of the continuation of trainee recruitment and procurement of OJT sites, as well as progress analysis. All trainees would be surveyed post training to gather information about changes in their wages and opportunities, in order to assess how the project is serving its target demographic. Outreach through marketing and personal connections would ensure that a pipeline of small commercial buildings and multi-family housing units already planning ccASHP installation projects would be available for OJT. Finally, enhancements would be made to the curriculum based on feedback, and the program would be disseminated nationwide once a creative commons license would be received.

Reports and other deliverables would be provided in accordance with the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist. There are no health or safety hazards expected due to the work that would be performed as part of the DOE funded project. There would be no modification of facilities, ground disturbing activities, or change in use or installation of equipment outdoors.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Building Technologies Office (BTO)

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Alex Colling on 01/07/21.

**FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS**

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 1/10/2022

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

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

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_