

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Envision Charlotte

STATE: NC

PROJECT TITLE: Envision Charlotte Project

| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| | DE-EE0007066 | GFO-0007066-001 | GO7066 |

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.)
- A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.
- B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water** (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Envision Charlotte (EC) to improve energy efficiency within 200 buildings or more primarily located in the Greater Charlotte, NC area. EC proposes to capitalize on

current momentum seen in an existing portfolio of sixty-one (61) buildings to include over two hundred (200) buildings across the following sectors: 1)

Commercial, Real Estate & Hospitality, 2) Higher Education, and 3) Healthcare. The project is designed to continue work towards EC's existing 20% energy-reduction goal over its baseline year (2010) while expanding its geographical impact to replicate successful strategies at scale.

The proposed activities would include administration of the project, coordination of partners, execution of research, data collection and analysis, and creation and coordination of a behavioral changes campaign and education and outreach strategies. Envision Charlotte would manage project administration from their office in Charlotte, NC. The City of Charlotte would handle coordination of local partners and execution of research-related tasks from their office at City Hall in Charlotte, NC. University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC) would take the lead on all technical work including conducting research, collecting and analyzing data and coordinating with partners from their office in Charlotte, NC. Creation of behavioral change campaigns and education and outreach strategies would be undertaken by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions in Arlington, VA. Finally, coordination of education and outreach activities would be managed by Charlotte Center City Partners from their office in Charlotte, NC. In order to complete the data collection process site visits would be required whereby student teams would utilize the DOE's Building Retuning Toolkit to identify opportunities for operational savings and as part of the outreach strategy on-site training would be offered at the conclusion of this project. However, all other associated activities would be limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities.

The proposed project would use no physical materials beyond basic office supplies and software. There are no known or potential health and safety hazards to the public or project workers that may occur at any of the chosen locations. Emissions from stationary sources, such as boilers, process heaters, generators and mobile sources, such as vehicles, would occur from typical office environment work. Garbage including typical office trash would be generated and they would be recycled where possible.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination", A11 "Technical advice and assistance to organizations" and B5.1 "Actions to conserve energy or water" and is therefore 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.

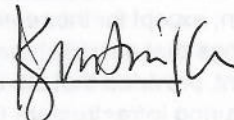
Note to Specialist :

Building Technologies Office
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Rebecca McCord on 05/19/2015

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer



Date: 6/3/2015

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.