

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Lime Energy

STATE: NJ

PROJECT TITLE : Solutions for Energy Efficiency among Small Businesses in Low-Income Communities

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001385	DE-EE0007560	GFO-0007560-001	G07560

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 Lime Energy to implement and demonstrate a performance-based, community-based, scalable, and replicable small business energy-efficiency retrofit approach; and ensure that model overcomes the unique barriers that exist in urban, low-income areas, and reaches small businesses which are most challenging to penetrate. This retrofit approach is an enhanced version of what the utility demand side management industry refers to as Small Business Direct Install (SBDI). SBDI is an integrated, turnkey delivery model aimed at mass customer acquisition and scaled delivery of fundamental, repeatable energy efficiency measures in small commercial facilities.

Activities associated with the proposed project would include design, marketing and outreach, energy auditing, sales

and enrollment, equipment procurement, installation of retrofits, and data analysis and reporting. Project management, data analysis and reporting would be completed from Lime Energy's offices in Newark NJ. Marketing and outreach, energy auditing, sales and enrollment, and equipment procurement would be orchestrated from Lime Energy field offices and community meeting facilities in Atlanta, GA, Houston, TX, and Orlando, FL.

Installations of retrofits would take place in select communities in Atlanta, Georgia; Houston, Texas; and Orlando, Florida although locations for the installations have not yet been specifically identified. The proposed project will serve a wide range of businesses and community institutions, including but not limited to: restaurants, convenience stores, automotive repair shops, car dealerships, small offices, retail businesses, community centers, small government facilities, and houses of worship. Target facilities would be under 20,000 square feet in size, most of which would be extremely small. Historic buildings and buildings eligible to be listed as historic are not served under this program.

Standardized energy-efficiency measures proposed include: interior and exterior lighting upgrades (lamp/ballast retrofits and some fixture replacements); lighting controls (e.g., occupancy sensors), upgrades to walk-in and reach-in refrigeration equipment (e.g. case lighting, door gaskets, night covers) and package HVAC unit controls and tune-ups (the "Standard Measures"). Additional scope under the proposed DOE project would include installation of circuit-level sub-metering and communication technology (in a subset of facilities served) for measurement and verification of savings, and to give customers visibility into their energy use. No ground disturbance would be necessary for completion of this project and no impact to sensitive resources are anticipated. There would be no change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities.

Potential health and safety hazards would include risk of falls and risk of electrocution. All staff and contractors receive safety training at regular intervals. Contractors are required to hold OSHA 10 and/or 30 hour cards and conduct safety meetings before each shift to ensure that the protection of project workers is made a priority. The proposed project would not necessitate the use or handling of any hazardous materials. Nonhazardous waste produced would be miscellaneous metals, corrugated boxes and standard construction debris. Metals and boxes would be recycled where available and applicable. Construction debris would be disposed of through normal municipal waste streams.

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", B5.1 "Actions to conserve energy or water", and A11 "Technical advice and assistance to organizations" 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 the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Building Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord 06/15/2016.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

6/23/2016

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: _____