

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Institute for Market Transformation

STATE: DC

PROJECT TITLE
: Boosting Energy Efficiency and Economic Development Through Chambers of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001385	DE-EE0007557	GFO-0007557-001	G07557

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Institute for Market Transformation to utilize a business-to-business (B2B) model to work with small business landlords and tenants to help drive the uptake of energy assessments, implementation of energy conservation measures, green leasing, and energy efficient tenant spaces in three markets (Cleveland, Ohio; Traverse City, Michigan; and Carrboro-Chapel Hill, North Carolina). This DOE project is fundamentally about the B2B model itself. While DOE does expect to see a certain level of energy savings from the installation of energy conservation measures (ECMs) that may follow from project activities, no project funding is going toward the installation of ECMs and the DOE has no control or discretion over which ECMs may be selected for installation or which business owners or commercial facilities may choose to install those ECMs. As such, DOE's NEPA review is limited to the scope of the DOE funded project which involves the B2B model effects in helping to address the following issues regarding information, technical, transaction, and incentive barriers associated with: education and outreach, energy assessments and lease reviews, financing and retrofitting, lease enhancements, and impact measurement and scaling.

Project activities include performing education and outreach activities (surveys, seminars, symposium, etc.) to promote B2B solutions to small businesses and chambers of commerce networks that may help increase the adoption of energy efficiency opportunities, conducting energy assessments/audits and green lease reviews, and conducting an energy efficiency financing feasibility study with chambers of commerce to help connect small businesses with local banks and third party contractors in an effort to help overcome transactional barriers to financing and retrofitting. In a small subset of the buildings assessed/audited as part of the project that also choose to implement ECMs, the recipient would measure the impacts of project activities against baseline data to document energy metrics and best management practices as well as develop case studies in an effort to lay the groundwork for expansion of the project to additional markets. Most of the project activities consist of intellectual, academic, or analytical activities only. Energy assessments/audits could require the recipient or project partners to perform site visits at locations within each market but project activities do not require any physical modification of facilities, ground disturbing activities, or installation of equipment outdoors. The exact locations of where energy assessments/audits would occur are not known at this time but based on the activities proposed, would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming they were present, therefore DOE has no further obligations under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the proposal fits within the class of action(s) and the integral elements of 10 CFR 1021 subpart B outlined in the DOE categorical exclusion(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) related to the

proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. This proposal 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:

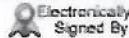
If the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior 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.
Casey Strickland 07/18/16

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Signed By: Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/26/2016

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: _____