

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



RECIPIENT: IBACOS, Inc.

STATE: PA

PROJECT TITLE : Advanced Clean Communities Collaborative (AC3)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002206	DE-EE0009774	GFO-0009774-001	G09774

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:

**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.)

**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 funding to IBACOS, Inc. to develop, test, construct and install a diverse ecosystem of distributed energy resource (DER) technologies in new and existing homes in the Raleigh, North Carolina vicinity. Participating homes would utilize an aggregation virtual platform to collect energy demand data.

This award would be executed over three Budget Periods (BPs). Budget period 1 activities include administration, planning, coordination, data collection, analysis, database design, outreach and recruitment of 500 new and 500 existing homes for project participation. DER technology (such as advanced thermal envelopes, heat pumps, smart off-peak ventilation systems, smart grid-connected water heaters, solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and optional storage batteries) would be installed in 500 new homes during construction. These homes would be constructed regardless of the proposed DOE funding. Existing homes participating in the project would receive energy audits, and 100 of the existing 500 homes would receive energy efficiency upgrades (such as duct repair, insulation, air sealing, thermostats, and water heaters); 25 of the existing homes would receive solar PV panels with optional battery storage. Existing

homes would be selected from participants within the same utility service territory as the newly constructed homes and in accordance to the conditions outlined within this ND. No ground disturbing activities would result from award activities. Budget period 2 activities would include data collection and analysis, computer modeling, and customer surveys. Budget period 3 activities would include analysis, demonstration of DER technology value and reporting.

Minimal air emissions may result from the use of diesel powered vehicles and equipment during installation of DER technologies. However, significant air impacts are not anticipated as emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Installation and operation of the proposed project may involve the use of heavy equipment, electrical equipment, and lithium batteries. Potential hazards would be mitigated through adherence to established corporate health and safety policies and procedures. IBACOS, Inc. would adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Project activities involving selected existing homes are prohibited unless and until the following conditions have been met:

- 1) For existing homes selected by the Recipient that are over 45 years of age, listed or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or are located within a listed historic district, the Recipient must submit a list of those locations to the DOE at GONEPA@ee.doe.gov;
- 2) If DOE determines it necessary, DOE completes Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) consultations for the applicable location; and
- 3) The Recipient receives written authorization from the DOE to move forward with the activities stated above.

Notes:

Building Technologies Office (BTO)

This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Amy Lukens, 7/7/2022.

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: _____

 Electronically
Signed By: **Casey Strickland**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/7/2022

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: _____