

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



**RECIPIENT:** Department of Energy via National Renewable Energy Laboratory

**STATE:** CO

**PROJECT TITLE :** American-Made Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools (CLASS)

**Funding Opportunity Announcement Number**    **Procurement Instrument Number**    **NEPA Control Number**    **CID Number**  
CLASS Prize FY23    GFO-CLASS Prize FY23-001

**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:

**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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to authorize the administration of a two-phase prize competition, known as the "American-Made Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools (CLASS)". The prize would build capacity within local education agencies (LEA) to identify and implement energy and health improvements in facilities and classrooms. The prize competition would provide resources, training, and professional coaching for LEA staff to develop and implement plans for energy management, operations and maintenance, project development, funding pathways, and advancing knowledge of fiscal and environmental sustainability in schools.

Phase 1 of the prize competition would encompass the application process, including activities such as submitting letters of support, demonstrating commitment to improving energy performance and indoor air quality, and identifying LEA staff that would participate in the program.

Phase 2 of the prize competition would move forward with the winners of phase 1. Phase 2 activities include virtual education courses and coaching provided by a training network of energy professionals. A bonus prize may be awarded to participants who demonstrate implementation of the training content provided in phase 2.

Prize competition activities would include only intellectual, academic, or analytical activities such as administrative and educational activities. Based on the types of activities occurring as part of the prize competition, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Building Technologies Office (BTO)  
NEPA review completed by Amy Lukens, 11/3/2022

**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: \_\_\_\_\_



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/3/2022

**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: \_\_\_\_\_