

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



**RECIPIENT:** National Renewable Energy Laboratory

**STATE:** Mult

**PROJECT TITLE :** National Building Upgrade Prize

**Funding Opportunity Announcement  
Number**

**Procurement Instrument  
Number**

**NEPA Control Number**  
GFO-National Building Upgrade Prize-  
001

**CID  
Number**

**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:

<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	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 four-phase prize competition, known as the "National Building Upgrade Prize". The prize would provide cash and technical assistance toward the development of innovative program models to accelerate building upgrades. Additional funds may be awarded to select recipients focused on delivering scalable and replicable building upgrades to disadvantaged communities, low-and-moderate income (LMI) households, and disadvantaged businesses.

This ND only covers the development of building upgrade concept plans (phase 1S and 1). Future phases of the prize would be dependent on the outcome of the concept plans and would require additional NEPA review.

Phase 1S of the prize competition would support new and under-resourced applicants through the application process, including activities such as identifying an applicant's team, determining eligibility, composing the application components, and the review and selection process. Phase 1 of the prize competition would include the application, review, and selection process for traditional applicants.

Prize competition activities of any applicant selected within phase 1S and 1 would include only intellectual, academic, or analytical activities such as administrative and educational activities. Based on the types of activities anticipated to occur as part phase 1S and 1 of the prize competition, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Phase 1S and Phase 1

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Phases 2, 3, 4, or any bonus prizes

Notes:

Building Technologies Office (BTO)  
NEPA review completed by Amy Lukens, 11/23/2022

**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.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 11/23/2022  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager