

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



RECIPIENT: Alaska Heat Smart

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE : Accelerating Heat Pump Adoption by Lower/Modest Income Households In Juneau, Alaska

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010121	GFO-0010121-001	GO10121

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:

DOE is administering Congressionally Directed Spending to Alaska Heat Smart (AHS) to accelerate heat pump adoption by lower-to-modest income households in Juneau and Sitka (and surrounding areas), Alaska. This will be accomplished by the AHS Heat Pump Incentive Program which is geared to assist lower to modest income families surmount financial obstacles currently preventing them from reaping the financial, health, and climate benefits of clean energy technologies for space heating. The project will provide approximately 200 homes with financial assistance to ease the strain of fuel switching from fossil fuel heat to renewable energy heat.

The incentive program work would consist of the following activities: Initial planning efforts would consist of identifying local heating, ventilation and air conditioning contractors who could work within the restrictions of the program. Outreach efforts to recruit lower-modest income households as potential applicants would include developing a website for the program, advertising in newspapers, and sharing information at public events such as local fairs. Potential applicants would be screened based on income. Qualified applicants would need to submit a home heat pump assessment that would help determine if their home is suitable for the addition of a heat pump to the home's

energy mix. Once the home is deemed qualified, AHS would issue the applicant with a certificate of incentive. This certificate would act as a credit towards the purchase and installation of an air source heat pump. Once a project has been secured, according to the contractor's requirements, installation may proceed. Upon billing, the contractor will use the AHS certificate in order to divide the project billing between AHS and the homeowner.

Installation of the new heat pumps through the AHS Heat Pump Incentive Program would involve mounting the new heat pump air handling unit within the interior of the home. The size of the installed heat pump components would be appropriately sized for the qualified home. Once the interior air handling unit is installed, piping and electrical wires would be run from this unit to a compressor unit located on the exterior of the home. The piping and electrical wiring to connect the air handling unit to the compressor may be done by wiring within interior walls of the home, requiring a 6-inch-diameter hole to be drilled onto the wall where the air handling unit is installed, and the piping/wires would be snaked through that hole to connect to the compressor. Patching of the 6-inch-diameter hole would occur after installation. The piping and wiring can be also done externally where the pipes and wires would be housed in a casing that would be run/mounted on the home's exterior. The compressor unit would be mounted by brackets to the exterior of the home. The compressor and any associated ducting, plumbing, or electrical wires would be installed so the components would not be visible from the public right of way. All undertakings will be done in accordance with applicable local building codes or the International Building Code, where applicable.

DOE has determined that the terms of the DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of Alaska apply to the proposed project from AHS. AHS shall adhere to the restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement. The restrictions outlined in this NEPA Determination as well as those listed in the Programmatic Agreement must be followed.

AHS is required to review the PowerPoint presentations on NEPA and historic preservation prior to commencing work on the above activities. The presentations are available at www.energy.gov/node/4816816. AHS is responsible for contacting NEPA with any NEPA or historic preservation questions at GONEPA@ee.doe.gov.

All incidental measures relating to hazardous materials identified by the Recipient (AHS) and AHS-approved contractors during the activities described by the AHS Heat Pump Incentive Program would be managed in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

DOE has considered potential impacts on resources of concern, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts on these resources.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

The Recipient shall adhere to the restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement.

The Recipient is required to review the PowerPoint presentations on NEPA and historic preservation prior to commencing work on the above activities. The presentations are available at www.energy.gov/node/4816816. The Recipient is responsible for contacting NEPA with any NEPA or historic preservation questions at GONEPA@ee.doe.gov.

Notes:

State and Community Energy Program

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

NEPA review completed by Andrew M. Montano, 2/6/2023

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: 2/7/2023

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: _____