

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



**RECIPIENT:** State of Vermont, Office of Economic Opportunity

**STATE:** VT

**PROJECT TITLE:** FY 22 E&I Recipient Individual Submission (Vermont Weatherization Training Center)

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002520		GFO-FY22E&I-005	GO28308

**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.)

**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's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is authorized per Title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The goal of WAP is to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential expenditures, and improve their health and safety. DOE has approximately \$18.6 million available for the Enhancement and Innovation (E&I) Program under the 2021 appropriations for the WAP E&I Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0002520).

DOE has determined the following "Allowable Activities" that are funded by DE-FOA-0002520 are categorically excluded from further NEPA review, absent extraordinary circumstances, cumulative impacts, or connected actions that may lead to significant impacts on the environment, or any inconsistency with "integral elements" (as contained in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B) as they relate to a specific activity. The State of Vermont, Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) proposes to develop a plan to launch a Weatherization Training Center, (Training Center) identify a training center operator, launch a statewide weatherization worker recruitment and marketing campaign, and an apprenticeship program. Not all project activities are defined, so some Tasks/Subtasks are restricted until additional details are determined. The OEO would complete the following "Allowable Activities."

Allowable Activities:

1. Task 1, Subtasks 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 to:
  - a. Formalize a project steering committee
  - b. Initiate community engagement with underrepresented communities as co-creators
  - c. Complete a needs and resource assessment for the project
  - d. Begin the preliminary design of the Training Center
  - e. Develop business plan that defines the governance, financial and marketing plan for the Training Center
  - f. Training by project partners to inform development of curriculum at the Training Center. This activity could include shadowing of existing WAP providers in the field which is covered under NEPA Determination GFO-WAP-2022A
2. Task 2, Subtask 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 to:
  - a. Establish a governing body for the Training Center
  - b. Identify a Training Center operator
  - c. Hire and train staff
3. Task 5 to evaluate the project with documentation of key strategies, tools and partnerships that led to success in recruiting, training, and supporting individuals from underrepresented groups in home energy performance and energy

efficiency.

The recipient is required to consult with the DOE Project Officer and NEPA Specialist before beginning any work on Task 2, Subtask 2.4 and all Subtasks under Task 3 and Task 4. Approval from the DOE Contracting Officer would be required for these Tasks and Subtasks. Once a possible Training Center location is identified, additional NEPA review will be required to assess potential impacts associated with any facility modifications necessary and proposed training activities. Additional information, including a new Environmental Questionnaire may be requested to complete the NEPA review for the identified Training Center.

The Recipient is required to participate in DOE led training on NEPA and Historic Preservation which would include the additional reporting requirements for the above activities prior to commencing work on the above activities. The training is available at [www.energy.gov/node/4816816](http://www.energy.gov/node/4816816). The recipient is responsible for contacting NEPA with any NEPA or historic preservation questions at [GONEPA@ee.doe.gov](mailto:GONEPA@ee.doe.gov).

The Recipient is responsible for identifying and promptly notifying DOE of extraordinary circumstances, cumulative impacts, or connected actions that may lead to significant impacts on the environment, or any inconsistency with the "integral elements" (as contained in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B) relating to any proposed activities.

Most activities listed under "Allowable Activities" are more restrictive than the Categorical Exclusion. The restrictions must be followed for the Allowable Activity to be applicable.

For activities requiring additional NEPA review, including any ground disturbing activities, the Recipient must complete the environmental questionnaire (found at <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/NEPA.aspx>) for review by DOE.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

This NEPA Determination applies to the activities from Task 1 including Subtasks 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7; Task 2, Subtasks 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3; and Task 5.

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

This NEPA Determination does NOT apply to activities in Task 2, Subtask 2.4 and all Subtasks under Tasks 3-4.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. This NEPA Determination only applies to the listed non-ground disturbing "Allowable Activities".
2. The Recipient is responsible for completing the online NEPA and historic preservation training at [www.energy.gov/node/4816816](http://www.energy.gov/node/4816816) and contacting NEPA with any questions [GONEPA@ee.doe.gov](mailto:GONEPA@ee.doe.gov).

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Program - WAP  
This NEPA Determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.  
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 01/17/2023.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



Andrew Montano

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/16/2023

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