

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



**RECIPIENT:** Toledo Community Foundation, Inc

**STATE:** OH

**PROJECT TITLE :** Overland Industrial Park Solar Community Project

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-EE0010159	GFO-0010159-001	

**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:

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| <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.)   |
| <b>B1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment</b> | Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.  |
| <b>B3.14 Small-scale educational facilities</b>                    | Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of small-scale educational facilities (including, but not limited to, conventional teaching laboratories, libraries, classroom facilities, auditoriums, museums, visitor centers, exhibits, and associated offices) within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Operation may include, but is not limited to, purchase, installation, and operation of equipment (such as audio/visual and laboratory equipment) commensurate with the educational purpose of the facility.  |
| <b>B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water</b>                    | (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 administer Congressionally Directed Spending to Toledo Community Foundation, Inc. in support of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation's (GTCF) Sustainable Communities Educational Initiative, which would leverage a recently constructed 3-megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) facility to launch a diverse collection of educational and outreach activities as well as expand the impact of the PV arrays through the installation of a battery system. Project work would occur at the Recipient's Overland Solar Arrays, comprised of a North Array and South Array, located at the Overland Industrial Park in Toledo, Ohio.

The proposed project involves three key goals:

- 1) "Youth Educational Programming" to provide exposure, including classroom and on-site experiences, to multiple participants exploring career opportunities and requisite skills.
- 2) "Storytelling Campaign for Broader Community" to deliver multi-media outreach that connects renewable energy initiatives to sustainable neighborhoods, community vitality, and regional philanthropy.
- 3) "Installation of Battery System at the Overland Solar Arrays Site" to support the scoping of project feasibility and equipment deployment.

The proposed project would construct a sculpture garden along the front fence of the North Array parallel to Jeep Parkway to be used as an educational site blending art and science to explain solar energy to students and promote future employment in the field. Pieces from the Toledo School for the Arts as well as interpretive signage would be incorporated into the proposed Overland Solar Arrays sculpture garden facility. All features would be created off-site and installed on level ground next to the fence line. Gravel from on-site would be used around the sculptures to control weeds.

A feasibility study would be performed to determine the optimal sizing and installation plan for the battery system. The Recipient would procure commercially available electric power and storage equipment; no manufacturing, demonstration, or field testing of products would be included in the proposed project. The installed system would be used to provide revenue for the GTCF by selling electricity to other industrial tenants at the site. Funds would be invested in the surrounding neighborhoods. The Recipient would coordinate with contractors to complete all permitting and interconnection agreements before commencing work. Physical modifications of the existing facility would include a ground level concrete slab to accommodate the new battery storage system, which would be secured by a fence and raised four feet (ft) above grade to prevent access and guarantee proper support of the adjacent floodplain. The footing for the racking and conex box inside which the battery would sit is expected to require ten cubic yards of concrete, with a total footprint of approximately 20 ft x 8 ft.

Ground disturbance resulting from the proposed activities would be minor and confined to areas of extensive previous development. While the project footprint itself is not located directly within a floodplain, it is adjacent to parts of both the North and South Arrays that were placed along the Ottawa River and involve the floodplains to the east of the river. Two hydrology studies were conducted under the direction of the City of Toledo prior to allowing the construction of the solar facilities to evaluate potential impacts and ensure no harm to the river's floodplains. DOE does not anticipate that the proposed activities would affect the floodplains in a manner which would affect existing flood hazards or the natural value of the floodplains. DOE also conducted a review of potential issues related to other resources of concern and found no effects that would be expected to result from the proposed project activities.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)  
Review completed by Whitney Donoghue on 03/09/2023.

## 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:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/17/2023  
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