

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



**RECIPIENT:** State Energy Office in all 50 states, The District of Columbia, 5 U.S. Territories      **STATE:** Mult

**PROJECT TITLE :** Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 -Section 50121 and 50122 Home Energy Rebate Programs  
Early Administrative Funds ALRD

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
IRA 50121 and 50122-Home Energy Rebate Programs Early Admin Funds ALRD		GFO-IRA 50121 and 50122-001	

**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.)

**A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations**

Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

Congress appropriated \$8.8 billion for the Home Energy Rebate Program in formula awards to energy offices in States, U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia, with the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Pub. L. 117-169 (August 16, 2022). The Home Energy Rebate Program requires energy offices to submit to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Home Energy Rebate Program Plans. The DOE is proposing to provide funding to energy offices for planning and administration activities required to prepare the Home Energy Rebate Program Plans. This funding is referred to as "early administrative funds". The energy offices may request up to 2.5% of their formula allocation.

Allowable activities include:

1. Capacity building

- a. Hire staff to assist the state in developing its plan for one or both rebate programs.
- b. Contract with experts that can assist the state in drafting its application to DOE once program guidance is issued.
- c. Development of any needed contracting materials and mechanisms, particularly if the state plans to use third party program implementers.

2. Strategic planning

- a. Conduct analysis, market research, community engagement including but not limited to workshops, town meetings, and social media outreach, or other activities to assist the state in determining its priorities and goals for the rebate funds.
- b. Identify program design priorities that best address state needs (e.g., specific energy efficiency technologies and technology packages, targeted housing stock/communities)
- c. Identify existing contracts and program delivery mechanisms that may meet the preliminary program requirements and could be leveraged to deliver rebates when DOE releases the programmatic funds.
- d. Identify ways to spur long-term market transformation beyond the rebate period (e.g., workforce development, attractive financing, improved supply chain/delivery mechanisms).
- e. Develop plan for addressing equity and environmental justice in rebate programs including contributing to the goal of the Justice40 initiative, so that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

3. Workforce development

- a. DOE encourages states to use a portion of their administration funds under this ALRD to plan for but not implement

residential contractor training programs under DOE's forthcoming State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants (IRA section 50123).

- b. Identify existing workforce programs, certifications, and gaps; identify job categories with shortages; develop strategy for recruiting and filling these gaps (e.g., vocational schools, community and other colleges, local labor organizations, high schools).
- c. Engage local trades groups, home contractor organizations, retailers, and manufacturer training programs and certifications to determine what types of additional training is needed for existing residential workforce including but not limited to workshops, social media outreach, and surveys.
- d. Research existing training materials and tools to support workforce development efforts.
- e. Develop and begin to implement a plan for addressing equity and environmental justice as part of workforce development strategy as well as supporting good-paying jobs with a free and fair choice to join a union.

#### 4. Coordinated program delivery

- a. Develop approach for integrating rebates with existing federal, state, utility and community-based programs as appropriate.
- b. Engage relevant stakeholders such as local government, community-based organizations, utilities, green banks, program implementers and existing state/federal programs to consider how and when braiding or other co-delivery of resources would be most effective including but not limited to workshops, social media outreach, and surveys.
- c. Begin initial conversations with Indian Tribes that may receive allocations of the electrification rebate funds including meetings and possible mailings.
- d. Research standards and best practices of standing up energy efficiency rebate programs.

#### 5. Consumer outreach & education

- a. Determine needs for educational and marketing materials.
- b. Identify effective approaches for outreach to disadvantaged communities.

The proposed activities would be limited to outreach, education, planning, and administrative efforts. Based on the types of activities proposed, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs – Partnerships  
(IRA 50122 - High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program and IRA 50121 - Home Energy Performance-Based, Whole-House Rebates)  
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder, 05/31/23

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



Signed By: Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6/2/2023

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