

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



RECIPIENT: SOW 4 - Tribal and non-tribal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Recipients WithOUT a Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement Requesting Expedited Reviews for Projects with No Ground Disturbing Activities **STATE:** Mult

PROJECT TITLE : SOW 4 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program - Formula Awards - Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
EECBG Program Formula - IIJA ALRD		GFO-EECBG-2023-004	

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.

B2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation

Installation of, or improvements to, building and equipment instrumentation (including, but not limited to, remote control panels, remote monitoring capability, alarm and surveillance systems, control systems to provide automatic shutdown, fire detection and protection systems, water consumption monitors and flow control systems, announcement and emergency warning systems, criticality and radiation monitors and alarms, and safeguards and security equipment).

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.

B5.14 Combined heat and power or cogeneration systems

Conversion to, replacement of, or modification of combined heat and power or cogeneration systems (the sequential or simultaneous production of multiple forms of energy, such as thermal and electrical energy, in a single integrated system) at existing facilities, provided that the conversion, replacement, or modification

would not have the potential to cause a significant increase in the quantity or rate of air emissions and would not have the potential to cause significant impacts to water resources.

B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

B5.17 Solar thermal systems

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available smallscale solar thermal systems (including, but not limited to, solar hot water systems) located on or contiguous to a building, and if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

B5.18 Wind turbines

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of a small number (generally not more than 2) of commercially available wind turbines, with a total height generally less than 200 feet (measured from the ground to the maximum height of blade rotation) that (1) are located within a previously disturbed or developed area; (2) are located more than 10 nautical miles (about 11.5 miles) from an airport or aviation navigation aid; (3) are located more than 1.5 nautical miles (about 1.7 miles) from National Weather Service or Federal Aviation Administration Doppler weather radar; (4) would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on bird or bat populations; and (5) are sited or designed such that the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts to persons (such as from shadow flicker and other visual effects, and noise). Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices. Covered actions include only those related to wind turbines to be installed on land.

B5.20 Biomass power plants

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of small-scale biomass power plants (generally less than 10 megawatts), using commercially available technology (1) intended primarily to support operations in single facilities (such as a school and community center) or contiguous facilities (such as an office complex); (2) that would not affect the air quality attainment status of the area and would not have the potential to cause a significant increase in the quantity or rate of air emissions and would not have the potential to cause significant impacts to water resources; and (3) would be located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

B5.22 Alternative fuel vehicle fueling stations

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of alternative fuel vehicle fueling stations (such as for compressed natural gas, hydrogen, ethanol and other commercially available biofuels) on the site of a current or former fueling station, or within a previously disturbed or developed area within the boundaries of a facility managed by the owners of a vehicle fleet. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

B5.23 Electric vehicle charging stations

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of electric vehicle charging stations, using commercially available technology, within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions are limited to areas where access and parking are in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) administers Energy Efficiency Conservation Grant Program (EECBG) as authorized by Title V, Subtitle E of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), as amended, and signed into Public Law (PL 110-140) on December 19, 2007. All awards made under this program shall comply with applicable laws and regulations including, but not limited to, 2 CFR Part 200 as amended by 2 CFR Part 910 and Section 40552 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (PL 117-58).

Under the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the EECBG Program Formula Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (EECBG Formula - IIJA) DOE would distribute formula EECBG Program funding to eligible units of local government, states, and Indian tribes. (hereinafter "Recipients"). Estimated individual Recipient allocations are included in the ALRD. The EECBG Program is designed to assist these Recipients in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency.

This NEPA determination is specific to Recipients meeting the qualifications of EECBG Statement of Work #4 (SOW 4), designated for tribal and non-tribal recipients without a Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement proposing no ground disturbing activities. NEPA determinations for other EECBG NEPA statements of work have been completed under the following control numbers: GFO-EECBG-2023-001, GFO-EECBG-2023-002, and GFO-EECBG-2023-003.

DOE has determined the following Blueprints and additional activities funded by EECBG Program Formula - IJA ALRD, 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 C.F.R. Part 1021, Appendix B) as they relate to a particular project.

Activities proposed on tribal lands or tribal properties would be restricted to homes/buildings less than forty-five (45) years old and without ground disturbance. Recipients would contact the DOE Project Officer for a Historic Preservation Worksheet to request a review of activities that are listed below on tribal homes/buildings forty-five (45) years and older and/or ground disturbing activities. The DOE NEPA team must review the Historic Preservation Worksheet and notify the Recipient’s DOE Project Officer before activities listed on the Historic Preservation Worksheet may begin.

Blueprints:

Note: Blueprints #2A, #2B, #2C, and Additional Activity #14.b within this NEPA determination do not include installation of light poles.

1. Blueprint #1: Energy Planning, activities limited to:

- a. Stakeholder engagement, education, and outreach.
- b. Energy data collection to assist in reducing fossil fuel emissions, reducing total energy use, or improving energy efficiency, including to establish a baseline.
- c. Development of an energy vision, goals, and strategies.
- d. Writing, adopting, and/or publicizing an energy plan.
- e. Development of energy efficiency and conservation strategies, project-specific plans that may require feasibility studies, preparation of preliminary project design, outreach, and technical support to state agencies, local governments, and affected stakeholders.
- f. Development and implementation of programs and strategies to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy such as policy development and stakeholder engagement.

2. Blueprint #2A: Funding commercially available, energy efficient, grid-interactivity, electrification and renewable energy upgrades; provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are limited to:

- a. Building energy assessments.
- b. Energy audits.
- c. Installation of insulation.
- d. Installation of energy efficient lighting.
- e. HVAC upgrades to existing systems.
- f. Weather sealing and duct sealing.
- g. Purchase and installation of energy/water-efficient residential and commercial appliances and equipment (including, but not limited to, grid-interactive building technologies, energy or water monitoring and control systems, thermostats, heat pumps, air conditioners, and related software).
- h. Retrofit of energy efficient pumps and motors (for such uses as, but not limited to, wastewater treatment plants) where it would not alter the capacity, use, mission, or operation of an existing facility.
- i. Retrofit and replacement of windows and doors.
- j. Installation of electric appliances (including replacement of appliances that utilize fossil fuels with electric appliances) such as heat pumps for water heating, air heating/cooling, electric dryers, and stoves.
- k. Retrofit and installation of energy-efficient commercial kitchen equipment, such as efficient refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers.
- l. Electrical system upgrades limited to electric panel upgrades, updated wiring and conduit, grounding, and arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) and ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) breakers.

3. Blueprint #2B: Energy Savings Performance Contracts for Efficiency and Electrification in Buildings, activities limited to:

- a. Exploring potential future financing options.
- b. Procurement of energy savings performance contractor and legal support/technical assistance.
- c. Building energy efficiency project implementation and acceptance. Funding commercially available energy efficiency or renewable energy upgrades; provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are limited to:
 - i. Installation of insulation.
 - ii. Installation of energy efficient lighting.
 - iii. HVAC upgrades (to existing systems).

- iv. Weather sealing and duct sealing.
 - v. Purchase and installation of energy/water-efficient residential and commercial appliances and equipment (including, but not limited to, grid-interactive building technologies, energy or water monitoring and control systems, thermostats, heat pumps, air conditioners, and related software).
 - vi. Retrofit of energy efficient pumps and motors (for such uses as, but not limited to, wastewater treatment plants) where it would not alter the capacity, use, mission, or operation of an existing facility.
 - vii. Retrofit and replacement of windows and doors.
 - viii. Installation of electric appliances (including replacement of appliances that utilize fossil fuels with electric appliances) such as heat pumps for water heating, air heating/cooling, electric dryers, and stoves.
 - ix. Retrofit and installation of energy-efficient commercial kitchen equipment, such as efficient refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers.
 - x. Electrical system upgrades limited to electric panel upgrades, updated wiring and conduit, grounding, and arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) and ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) breakers.
- d. Post-implementation measurement & verification limited to data analysis (e.g.: metering/usage/temperature), which may include monitoring devices installed on equipment, but not on buildings.

4. Blueprint #2C: Building Efficiency & Electrification Campaign, activities limited to:

- a. Design of an electrification campaign, including assessing the market, defining campaign goals, and engaging stakeholders.
- b. Design and execution of financial incentives, including rebates, grants, or financing mechanisms, to support building energy efficiency and electrification upgrades. All project activities funded under a financial incentive program must be listed within this statement of work.
- c. Research and procurement of campaign partner, including necessary legal and technical support and assistance.
- d. Development and implementation of communications plan and materials, including website development.
- e. Program education, outreach, and advertising.
- f. Building Energy Efficiency: Funding commercially available energy efficiency or renewable energy upgrades; provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are limited to:
 - i. Installation of insulation.
 - ii. Installation of energy efficient lighting.
 - iii. HVAC upgrades to existing systems.
 - iv. Weather sealing and duct sealing.
 - v. Purchase and installation of energy/water-efficient residential and commercial appliances and equipment (including, but not limited to, grid-interactive building technologies, energy or water monitoring and control systems, thermostats, heat pumps, air conditioners, and related software).
 - vi. Retrofit of energy efficient pumps and motors (for such uses as, but not limited to, wastewater treatment plants) where it would not alter the capacity, use, mission, or operation of an existing facility.
 - vii. Retrofit and replacement of windows and doors.
 - viii. Installation of electric appliances (including replacement of appliances that utilize fossil fuels with electric appliances) such as heat pumps for water heating, air heating/cooling, electric dryers, and stoves.
 - ix. Retrofit and installation of energy-efficient commercial kitchen equipment, such as efficient refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers.
 - x. Electrical system upgrades limited to electric panel upgrades, updated wiring and conduit, grounding, and arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) and ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) breakers.

5. Blueprint #2D: Building Performance Standards and Stretch Codes, activities limited to:

- a. Stakeholder Engagement, education, and outreach.
- b. Data collection and benchmarking.
- c. Metric selection and target setting.
- d. Determination of compliance and enforcement approach.
- e. Development and implementation of building codes, including inspection services, and associated activities to support code compliance and promote building energy efficiency.

6. Blueprint #3A: Solar and Battery Storage - Power Purchase Agreements and Direct Ownership, activities limited to:

- a. Site assessment.
- b. Project savings assessment.
- c. Procurement & legal support.
- d. Development, implementation, and installation of solar electricity/photovoltaic (PV) systems , provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are not to exceed 60 kW DC.
- e. Development and installation of energy storage systems, including electrochemical and thermal storage systems, provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within

a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are appropriately sized not to exceed 1,000 kWh.

7. Blueprint #3B: Community Solar, activities limited to:

- a. Stakeholder engagement, education, and outreach.
- b. Site assessments and selection.
- c. Procurement of developer, legal & technical support.
- d. Communications, program education, and promotion
- e. Development, implementation, and installation of solar electricity/photovoltaic (PV) systems , provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are not to exceed 60 kW DC.
- f. Development and installation of energy storage systems, including electrochemical and thermal storage systems, provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are appropriately sized not to exceed 1,000 kWh.
- g. Implementation of financial incentive programs including rebates; energy savings performance contracts, renewable energy sharing, or energy savings agreements for existing facilities; community solar credit sharing arrangements; grants and loans to support energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy saving projects. All project activities funded under a financial incentive program must be listed within this statement of work.

8. Blueprint #3C: Solarize Campaign, activities limited to:

- a. Design of Solarize Campaign program details.
- b. Stakeholder engagement through education and outreach.
- c. Procurement of solar installer/developer, legal, and technical support.
- d. Solarize program education, outreach, and advertising.
- e. Development, implementation, and installation of solar electricity/photovoltaic (PV) systems , provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are not to exceed 60 kW DC.
- f. Development and installation of energy storage systems, including electrochemical and thermal storage systems, provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are appropriately sized not to exceed 1,000 kWh.
- g. Implementation of financial incentive programs including rebates; energy savings performance contracts, renewable energy sharing, or energy savings agreements for existing facilities; community solar credit sharing arrangements; grants and loans to support energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy saving projects. All project activities funded under a financial incentive program must be listed within this statement of work.

9. Blueprint #3D: Renewable Resource Planning, activities limited to:

- a. Market assessment.
- b. Stakeholder engagement.
- c. Action Plan development and implementation, which may include resource planning and preliminary siting assessments, identification of financial options, and streamlining of permitting processes.
- d. Development, implementation, and installation of solar electricity/photovoltaic (PV) systems , provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are not to exceed 60 kW DC.
- e. Development and installation of energy storage systems, including electrochemical and thermal storage systems, provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are appropriately sized not to exceed 1,000 kWh.
- f. Implementation of financial incentive programs including rebates; energy savings performance contracts, renewable energy sharing, or energy savings agreements for existing facilities; community solar credit sharing arrangements; grants and loans to support energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy saving projects. All project activities funded under a financial incentive program must be listed within this statement of work.

10. Blueprint #4A: Electric Vehicles for Fleets and Fleet Electrification, activities limited to:

- a. Development of fleet replacement plan, including stakeholder engagement and input.
- b. Siting planning and preliminary assessments.
- c. Development of utility data sharing agreement.
- d. Development of charging plan including cost assessment of electric bill.

- e. Procurement, legal, and technical support to purchase and install EVs and EVSE.
- f. Purchase of alternative fuel vehicles, including electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles.
- g. Installation of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), including testing measurements to assess the safety and functionality of the EVSE (restricted to existing footprints within an existing parking facility, defined as any building, structure, land, right-of-way, facility, or area used for parking of motor vehicles which would not require any ground disturbance). All activities must use reversible, non-permanent techniques for installation, and where appropriate, use the lowest profile EVSE reasonably available that provides the necessary charging capacity. EVSE shall be placed in minimally visibly intrusive area; use colors complementary to surrounding environment, where possible, and be limited to the current electrical capacity. This applies to Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 (also known as Direct Current (DC) Fast Charging) EVSE for community and municipal fleets.

11. Blueprint #4B: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, activities limited to:

- a. Procurement, legal, and technical support to purchase and install EVs and EVSE.
- b. Stakeholder engagement.
- c. Siting planning, assessments, and site selection.
- d. Installation of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), including testing measurements to assess the safety and functionality of the EVSE (restricted to existing footprints within an existing parking facility, defined as any building, structure, land, right-of-way, facility, or area used for parking of motor vehicles which would not require any ground disturbance). All activities must use reversible, non-permanent techniques for installation, and where appropriate, use the lowest profile EVSE reasonably available that provides the necessary charging capacity. EVSE shall be placed in minimally visibly intrusive area; use colors complementary to surrounding environment, where possible, and be limited to the current electrical capacity. This applies to Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 (also known as Direct Current (DC) Fast Charging) EVSE for community and municipal fleets.

12. Blueprint #5: Unlocking Sustainable Financing Solutions for Energy Projects and Programs including Revolving Loan Funds, activities limited to:

- a. Market analysis, programmatic research, and design.
- b. Stakeholder engagement, education, and outreach.
- c. Legal and technical support.
- d. Communications, program education, and promotion.
- e. Program evaluation.
- f. Implementation of financial incentive programs, including rebates and energy savings performance contracts for existing facilities; grants and loans to support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation projects; loan loss reserves; interest-rate buy down programs; PACE programs; and loan guarantees. All project activities funded under a financial incentive program must be listed within this statement of work.

13. Blueprint #6: Workforce Development, activities limited to:

- a. Workforce assessment and market analysis.
- b. Program design and curriculum development.
- c. Stakeholder engagement, including program promotion and outreach.
- d. Implementation of classroom or virtual training programs.
- e. Paying trainers and trainees, including supplemental services.

Additional Activities:

14. Building Energy Efficiency: Funding commercially available energy efficiency or renewable energy upgrades, provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are limited to:

- a. Installation of insulation.
- b. Installation of energy efficient lighting.
- c. HVAC upgrades to existing systems.
- d. Weather sealing and duct sealing.
- e. Purchase and installation of energy/water-efficient residential and commercial appliances and equipment (including, but not limited to, grid-interactive building technologies, energy or water monitoring and control systems, thermostats, heat pumps, air conditioners, and related software).
- f. Retrofit of energy efficient pumps and motors (for such uses as, but not limited to, wastewater treatment plants) where it would not alter the capacity, use, mission, or operation of an existing facility.
- g. Retrofit and replacement of windows and doors.
- h. Installation of electric appliances (including replacement of appliances that utilize fossil fuels with electric appliances) such as heat pumps for water heating, air heating/cooling, electric dryers, and stoves.
- i. Retrofit and installation of energy-efficient commercial kitchen equipment, such as efficient refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers.
- j. Electrical system upgrades required to enable energy efficient/clean energy. Measures limited to electric panel upgrades, updated wiring and conduit, grounding, and arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) and ground-fault circuit

interrupter (GFCI) breakers.

15. Development, implementation, and installation of renewable energy technology, provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, and are limited to:

- a. Solar Electricity/Photovoltaic—appropriately sized systems not to exceed 60kW (including community solar projects)
- b. Wind Turbines 20 kW or smaller
- d. Solar thermal systems (including solar thermal hot water) limited to 200,000 BTU per hour or smaller.

16. Biomass thermal systems, provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, are appropriately sized, and limited to 3 MMBTUs per hour or smaller, with appropriate regulatory permits obtained and Best Available Control Technologies (BACT) installed and operated.

17. Purchase of alternative fuel vehicles, hybrids, and electric vehicles.

18. Installation of fueling pumps and systems (but not storage tanks) for fuels such as compressed natural gas, hydrogen, ethanol, and other commercially available biofuels, provided that projects are installed on a current fueling station site (less than 45 years old), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, are appropriately sized, and obtain the appropriate permits, and comply with regulatory requirements.

19. Implementation of financial incentive programs including rebates and energy savings performance contracts for existing facilities; grants, loans, and revolving loans to support energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy saving projects. All project activities funded under a financial incentive program must be listed within this NEPA statement of work.

20. Development and installation of energy storage systems, including electrochemical and thermal storage systems, provided that projects are installed in or on existing buildings less than 45 years old (or within the boundaries of a facility less than 45 years old, defined as an already disturbed area due to regular ground maintenance), are not within a historic district, do not require ground disturbance, tree removal or tree trimming, are appropriately sized not to exceed 1,000 kWh, obtain the appropriate permits, and comply with regulatory requirements.

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.

DOE is required to consider floodplain management and wetland protection as part of its environmental review process (10 CFR 1022). As part of this required review, DOE determined requirements set forth in Subpart B of 10 CFR 1022 are not applicable to the Blueprints and additional activities listed above which would not cause ground disturbance that occur in the 100-year floodplain (hereinafter “floodplain”) or wetland because the activities would not have short-term or long-term adverse impacts to the floodplain or wetland. These activities are administrative or minor modifications of existing facilities to improve environmental conditions. All other integral elements and environmental review requirements are still applicable.

If proposed activities are not listed within the Blueprints and additional activities above, the Recipient must contact their DOE Project Officer for eligibility review. An additional NEPA review would be required, including the possible submission of an Environmental Questionnaire form (EQ 1) (found at <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/NEPA.aspx>). Recipients shall not begin any activities without approval from the DOE Contracting Officer.

Most activities listed under “Blueprints and additional activities” within this NEPA determination are more restrictive than the Categorical Exclusion. The restrictions included in the “Blueprints and additional activities” must be followed.

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 only applies to activities funded by the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the EECBG Program Formula Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (EECBG Formula - IJJA), awarded to

tribal and non-tribal recipients which do not have a DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement, and do not propose ground-disturbing activities.

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

This NEPA determination does not apply to:

1. awards funded by sources other than the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document for the EECBG Program Formula Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,
2. activities that do not fit within the restrictions of the Blueprints and additional activities listed within this NEPA Determination,
3. recipients that have a DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement, or
4. activities involving ground disturbance.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. This NEPA Determination only applies to activities funded by the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the EECBG Program Formula Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (EECBG Formula - IJJA), awarded to tribal and non-tribal recipients which do not have a DOE executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement, and do not propose ground-disturbing activities.

2. Activities/projects not listed under "Blueprints and additional activities" within this NEPA determination are subject to additional NEPA review and approval by DOE. For activities/projects requiring additional NEPA review, Recipients must complete the environmental questionnaire (EQ 1) (<https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/NEPA.aspx>) and receive notification from DOE that the NEPA review has been completed and approved by the Contracting Officer prior to initiating the project or activities.

3. Activities proposed on tribal lands or tribal properties would be restricted to homes/buildings less than forty-five (45) years old and without ground disturbance. Recipients must contact the DOE Project Officer for a Historic Preservation Worksheet to request a review of activities that are listed below on tribal homes/buildings forty-five (45) years and older and/or ground disturbing activities. The DOE NEPA team must review the Historic Preservation Worksheet and notify the Recipient's DOE Project Officer before activities listed on the Historic Preservation Worksheet may initiate.

4. This authorization does not include activities where the following elements exist: extraordinary circumstances; cumulative impacts or connected actions that may lead to significant effects on the human environment; or any inconsistency with the "integral elements" (as contained in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B) as they relate to a particular project.

5. The Recipient must identify and promptly notify DOE of extraordinary circumstances, cumulative impacts or connected actions that may lead to significant effects on the human environment, or any inconsistency with the "integral elements" (as contained in 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B) as they relate to project activities.

6. Recipients are responsible for reviewing the online NEPA and historic preservation training at www.energy.gov/node/4816816 and contacting EECBG.NEPA@ee.doe.gov with any EECBG NEPA or historic preservation questions.

7. Recipients are required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report in the Performance and Accountability for Grants in Energy system (PAGE) at <https://www.page.energy.gov/default.aspx>.

8. Most activities listed under "Blueprints and additional activities" within this NEPA determination are more restrictive than the Categorical Exclusion. The restrictions included in the "Blueprints and additional activities" must be followed.

9. This authorization excludes any activities that are otherwise subject to a restriction set forth elsewhere in the Award.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs - EECBG
This NEPA Determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Amy Lukens, 8/18/2023.

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.

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:  Casey Strickland Date: 8/21/2023
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