

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



RECIPIENT: ENERGYWERX

STATE: Mult

PROJECT TITLE : Equitable Solar Communities of Practice

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0011064	GFO-0011064-001	

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:

A8 AWARDS OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS

Awards of contracts for technical support services, management and operation of a government-owned facility, and personal services.

In November 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Broad Agency Announcement indicating an interest in entering into one or multiple agreements with Partnership Intermediaries (PI) to work with DOE's Office of Technology Transfer, other DOE programs, and DOE National Laboratories and Facilities. Through one or more Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA), DOE would expand its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy and national security ecosystem and address gaps facing companies, organizations and communities seeking to engage with DOE and/or develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission.

DOE is currently proposing to execute a PIA with ENERGYWERX (Niceville, FL) to serve as the PI to facilitate five equitable solar communities of practice. Through this, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Workforce and Equitable Access (WEA) team aims to develop five communities to support the scaling and equitable delivery of benefits through community-scale and low-income rooftop solar installations. With an emphasis on improving how local communities identify best practices and resources, this program would provide technical assistance and other solutions necessary to delivering meaningful benefits of solar projects. These objectives would be achieved by 1) promoting equitable energy access and protections for the consumer, 2) providing household-level savings, 3) increasing resilience, storage, and grid benefits, 4) promoting community-led economic development, and 5) developing the local solar workforce.

The PI would focus on engaging community members and organizations, recruiting team members, holding community meetings, identifying best practices, and creating a pathway to scale the meaningful benefits of solar implementation. Federal funds would be spent primarily on developing resources, hiring new staff, and executing trainings and workshops. Expected PI activities would include primarily education, training, outreach, and technical assistance. Some analytical activities may be conducted but would be limited to computer modeling and data dissemination. No laboratory or field work would be involved. The proposed work would not result in the modification of existing facilities or new construction projects.

Based on the types of activities proposed, DOE does not anticipate any adverse impacts to sensitive resources as a result of the execution of this PIA with ENERGYWERX.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
NEPA review completed by Alex Colling on 09/15/2023.

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: **Andrew Montano**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/15/2023

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: _____