

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



RECIPIENT: Lake Washington Institute of Technology

STATE: WA

PROJECT TITLE : Solar Array for Higher Education

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010802	GFO-0010802-001	

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.)

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.

B5.23 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) is proposing to administer Congressionally Directed Spending to the Lake Washington Institute of Technology (LWIT) in Kirkland, WA to design and install rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays on multiple buildings on the LWIT campus and expand LWIT's existing electronic vehicle (EV) supercharger station by designing and installing four additional superfast EV charging stations. The PV arrays would be installed on the East Building, Allied Health Building, Center for Design, and either the Early Learning Center, or the Horticulture Building. The EV charging stations would be installed at the Tech Center Building.

Initial award activities would include finalizing utility service requirements for new EV infrastructure and PV size/production, design drawings, site preparation, equipment procurement, and acquiring local and state approvals/permits. Additional award activities would involve commercially available PV arrays and racking being added to existing roof spaces and integrated into the grid. The number of PV arrays installed at each location is dependent on roof capacity, subpanel placement, and transformer locations, but would total approximately 99-kilowatts across all proposed locations.

Project activities would be completed on existing, purpose-built facilities; equipment, site trailers, and supplies would be staged in parking lots of building sites and crane lifts would be used to move equipment to rooftops. Existing roads would be used to access installation sites. No change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort.

Potential hazards would include those associated with carrying out electrical and construction activities on a roof. Individuals working on this project could be exposed to physical hazards. Existing health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, and monitoring. Additional policies and procedures would be implemented as necessary if new health and safety risks are identified. All activities would comply with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations. All required permits, licenses, and/or authorizations, including requirements for the local Authority Having Jurisdiction Permit and Interconnection Agreement with local utility.

Because award activities would take place in a previously developed area, and no tree cutting or vegetation clearing would be required, DOE has determined the proposed project would have no effect to threatened or endangered species that may be present in the area. Any changes in work proposed that would result in tree cutting or vegetation clearing would require notice to be sent to the DOE Project Officer and would be subject to additional NEPA review.

None of the buildings identified for the installation of rooftop solar PV are listed in the National Register of Historic Places nor are they located within a listed historic district. DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of the proposed activities to determine potential issues related to other resources of concern and found no effects that would be expected to result from the proposed project activities or require DOE to consult with other agencies.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Because award activities would take place in a previously developed area, and no tree cutting or vegetation clearing would be required, DOE has determined the proposed project would have no effect to threatened or endangered species that may be present in the area. Any changes in work proposed that would result in tree cutting or vegetation clearing would require notice to be sent to the DOE Project Officer and would be subject to additional NEPA review.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
The NEPA Determination requires a legal review of a tailored provision.
NEPA review completed by Meagan Jacobsen on 06/20/2024.

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: 7/1/2024

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: _____