

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION**

**RECIPIENT:** Town of Bedford**STATE:** NY

PROJECT TITLE : Competitive EECBG Awards - The Bedford Northern Westchester Energy Action Coalition Retrofit Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000148	DE-EE0003800		0

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**Description:**

- A1** Routine actions necessary to support the normal conduct of agency business, such as administrative, financial, and personnel actions.
- A9** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.
- A11** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.
- B5.1** Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

Rational for determination:

The Town of Bedford will use DOE funding under the Competitive EECBG Grant Award for activities that are bounded in compliance with the uploaded and signed NEPA Statement of Work (SOW) template. All projects under this program are bounded in compliance with the uploaded and signed NEPA Statement of Work (SOW) Template for Expedited NEPA review. Many of these projects will include energy efficiency retrofits to a number of existing buildings focusing mostly on residential homes and some commercial. Other aspects of this project include financial incentives, marketing and outreach, and educational opportunities.

The description of project activities is described below as submitted in the EF-1:

The Bedford-Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium Retrofit Program will enlist a broad cross-section of resources to advance a self-sustaining effort to promote residential energy efficiency through home energy audits and efficiency retrofits, first in the pilot Town of Bedford, NY (population 18,000) and ultimately throughout the 14 neighboring consortium municipalities (population 230,000). The Program's primary goal is to dramatically increase energy efficiency retrofits beyond historic 1% participation rates by overcoming known barriers to action with innovative marketing and financing techniques. Success will be measured by our ability to meet or exceed 150 retrofits during the Bedford pilot stage in year one and expand effectively throughout the Consortium to complete over 6,500 retrofits (over 10% of eligible homes) by year 6. As a pioneering project, both in New York and nationwide, methods developed can serve as a model for energy efficiency programs elsewhere, creating jobs, making homes healthier and more comfortable, saving homeowners money, reducing our use of fossil fuels, and cutting harmful and polluting greenhouse gas emissions. The Program addresses known weaknesses in traditional energy efficiency programs with its design elements. A sophisticated marketing program will provide informative materials on energy efficiency audits and retrofits, but as importantly, will be implemented by a full time program director and staff with the help of community-based resource groups and trusted individuals, and owners of retrofitted homes who are willing to share their experiences. The program benefits from the full support of local governments throughout the consortium. Homeowners will use a sophisticated and customized web-tool to access an alternative source of basic information on retrofit science and how to maximize home performance, contractors approved by the New York Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and a simple (and non-credit based) application for benefit financing. As the web-tool is more fully developed, it will provide individual homeowners with information on their energy usage and how it compares with others and compile feedback on contractors for future customers. Combining NYSERDA's approval

process with retrofit testimonials will make homeowners much more comfortable that necessary work will be done well by professionals. The program will offer property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing that links repayment of the retrofit to the property with flexible repayment terms based on an attractive fixed rate assessment charge on the property tax bill. Allowing homeowners to finance retrofits over time eliminates the up-front cost barrier and reduced energy costs will save them money, net of assessment charges, each year.

Any projects that fall outside the scope of the template are conditioned pending further NEPA review.

These projects as described above comprise administrative, financial and personnel actions, education, technical advice, and actions to conserve energy; therefore they are categorized under CX A1, A9, A11, and B5.1.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

Jane Summerson

Date: 7/7/2010

NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

☐ Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- ☐ Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- ☐ Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____