

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



RECIPIENT: City of Palm Coast

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE: Palm Coast Community Center Solar Installation

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number
DE-FOA-0002882

Procurement Instrument Number
EECBG Voucher

NEPA Control Number
GFO-PalmCoastFL-001

CID Number

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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the City of Palm Coast to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) array at the Palm Coast Community Center located in Palm Coast, Florida. This project would be funded under the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program Formula Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Award activities would involve the installation of an 81.6-kilowatt solar PV array on the roof of the Palm Coast Community Center. The roof-mounted solar array would encompass about 5,400 square feet of space and include 170 solar panels and two 100-kilowatt inverters. The solar panels would utilize a clip system and attach directly to the standing seam roofing system. Electric panels and associated electrical conduit and cabling would be installed as needed. A crane would be used to lift and install the solar modules on the roof. Tree trimming may occur on the west side of the building; however, trimming would be minimal, and no tree removal would be required.

No ground disturbance or changes in the use or operation of the existing facility are anticipated. The project would not require review from the State Historic Preservation Officer because the building is less than 50 years old. Therefore, the project qualifies for exemption under the DOE-executed Florida Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement. The City of Palm Coast is planning to perform an assessment of the existing facility to determine if any structural modifications are required. If any modifications to the community center are deemed necessary, a new NEPA review would be required before the associated work can begin.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies nine threatened and endangered species (i.e., tricolored bat, West Indian manatee, eastern black rail, Florida scrub-jay, eastern indigo snake, green sea turtle, hawksbill sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, and monarch butterfly), which may occur at the proposed project site in Palm Coast, Florida. No critical habitats are identified within the proposed project area. The monarch butterfly is listed as a candidate species and does not require a determination. There would be no anticipated effects to the West Indian manatee, green sea turtle, hawksbill sea turtle, and leatherback sea turtle since these are marine species and their absence is reasonably assumed at the project site. There would be no anticipated effects to the eastern black rail, Florida scrub-jay, eastern indigo snake due to the absence of suitable habitat and the lack of ground-disturbing activities. There is a potential for effect to the tricolored bat due to possible tree trimming activity on the west side of the building. DOE reached a determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" (i.e., NLAA) for the tricolored bat. Consultation with USFWS was initiated on September 30, 2024, and USFWS concurrence on DOE's NLAA determination was received on October 3, 2024. Therefore, no effects to the West Indian manatee, eastern black rail, Florida scrub-jay, eastern indigo snake, green sea turtle, hawksbill sea turtle, leatherback

sea turtle, and monarch butterfly are anticipated, and the project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the tricolored bat.

Minimal air emissions may result from vehicles and equipment that would be used to install the solar arrays, but emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Hazards associated with the activities include working at elevated heights with heavy machinery (i.e., crane), and with electricity and electrical equipment. Existing government and corporate health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed, including personnel training, proper personal protective equipment, monitoring, and internal assessments.

The City of Palm Coast would observe all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations and requirements. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. The City of Palm Coast must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of Florida, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.
2. The City of Palm Coast is 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.
3. The City of Palm Coast is required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report in the MS Forms website. Please contact your DOE Project Officer for the link to the online form.
4. To satisfy Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, all tree trimming is prohibited from May 1st through July 15th to minimize the probability of take of the tricolored bat. Additionally, no tree removal is permitted. If tree removal is deemed necessary, a new NEPA review would be required before any removal activities can occur.
5. If the assessment of the existing facility concludes that a change in the scope of work is required, including but not limited to facility modifications, then a new NEPA review would be necessary before the associated work can begin. NEPA must be consulted before moving forward with project activities.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs – EECBG
This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Nick Iraola, 11/07/2024

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: Matthew Blevins

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/7/2024

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: _____