

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



**RECIPIENT:** City of Racine

**STATE:** WI

**PROJECT TITLE :** City of Racine Sustainability and Decarbonization Project

**Notice of Funding Opportunity Number**

**Procurement Instrument Number**  
DE-EE0010774

**NEPA Control Number**  
GFO-0010774-002

**CID Number**  
GO10774

**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:

**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); 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.

**B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems**

(a) The installation, modification, operation, or decommissioning of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems:

1. Located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, or mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences); or
2. Located within a previously disturbed or developed area.

(b) Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and the integral elements listed at the start of appendix B of this part, and would be consistent with applicable plans for the management of wildlife and habitat, including plans to maintain habitat connectivity, and 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 City of Racine (City), WI to develop, design, and install a solar photovoltaic (PV) carport system at the City's Bus Garage; incorporate energy efficiency upgrades, including advanced building control systems and installing light emitting diodes (LED) at multiple locations; and install energy conservation measures (EBCx), conduct existing building commissioning, and implement building performance design solutions at multiple locations. All project locations are owned by the City.

Project activities at each location would be as follows:

1. LED upgrades would be performed at the City Hall Annex and the Safety Building;
2. An EBCx audit and implementation of identified energy saving measures would be performed at City Hall, Cesar Chavez Community Center, Dr. John Bryant Community Center, Tyler Domer Community Center, Humble Park Community Center, the Public Library, and the Safety Building; and
3. A 270-kilowatt solar PV array would be installed in the parking lot of the Bus Garage.

A previous NEPA Determination (ND; GFO-0010774-001; CXs A9, B5.1) was completed on 06/28/2024 and applied to Tasks 1 and 2. This ND applies to the rest of the tasks, Tasks 3-6. Task 3 would include installation of a solar carport canopy at the Racine Bus Garage, including solar modules, inverters, racking, transformers, circuit breakers, fuses, and switches. Task 4 would include the installation of LED lighting upgrades at City Hall Annex and Safety Building. Task 5 would include installation and implementation of the identified EBCx energy conservation measures, and Task 6 would be project commissioning.

The construction of the solar carport canopy at the Racine Bus Garage would include ground disturbing activities, such as using an auger to dig holes for concrete piers to be poured as the foundation. General grading would take place around the site after construction. The carport would be divided into an east and south section, measuring 29 x 203 feet and 29 x 227 feet, respectively. Approximately 15 feet of trenching would occur between the eastern and southern sections, as well as to the utility connection. The utility connection is located adjacent to the southern section. An excavator would be used to install a trench to a depth of approximately 24 inches. Excavated materials, asphalt, and seed would be used to backfill the trenches. All activities would take place in a previously disturbed and heavily managed area. Displaced soil would be disposed of according to local regulations.

Hazards would include risks involved with general construction. All work would be carried out under the direction of the project manager and licensed contractor and would follow all OSHA regulations.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of the proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature.

#### For Categorical Exclusion Determinations:

- The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025). To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.
- 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.
- The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)  
Review completed by Alex Colling on 11/4/2025.

## SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Electronically  
Signed By: Nicole Serio

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/17/2025

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_