



**DATE:** October 25, 2023

**TO:** Energy Council

**FROM:** Ben Cooper, Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of U.S. Department of Energy Buildings Upgrade Prize for Multifamily Building Electrification

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## **SUMMARY**

On October 11, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that the Energy Council, in partnership with the County of Ventura, had been selected as a winner in the Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP). Staff is requesting Energy Council approval to accept a \$200,000 award and receive 140 hours of technical assistance from the DOE.

## **DISCUSSION**

Buildings UP is a DOE initiative designed to accelerate equitable, widespread energy efficiency and electrification building upgrades across the country. In July 2023, the County of Ventura approached staff about submitting a proposal to advance multifamily building electrification in the combined Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) and BayREN service territory. Energy Council leads the Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements (BAMBE) program on behalf of BayREN, which offers free technical assistance and incentives to property owners.

DOE selected the County of Ventura/Energy Council partnership as a winner in the Phase 1 Equity-Centered Innovation pathway. The total prize amount of \$400,000 will be split equally between the two Regional Energy Networks, to be used within 12 months of the date the award is received. The proposed scope of work will address persistent barriers to multifamily upgrades, including:

- Split incentives among owners and renters
- Concerns about new technologies creating long-term maintenance obligations
- Concerns around building electrification and potential for utility bill increases
- Complexities around funding and installation of building electrification and transportation electrification equipment at existing multifamily properties

Buildings UP supports the Agency's aim of advancing equity by providing funding to meaningfully engage a diverse group of stakeholders in program design and delivery. Input from residents, owners, contractors and technology/service providers will inform an implementation plan to improve the BAMBE program. The award will leverage the experience and collaboration from a recently completed Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Multifamily Electric Vehicle Pilot. ECO, a black, woman-owned electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) consultancy and contracting business based in Oakland will support the proposed scope of work.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to accept a \$200,000 Buildings Upgrade Prize for the development of a multifamily energy efficiency and electrification implementation plan and other related actions.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution #EC 2023- 07

Attachment B: Proposed Scope of Work

**Attachment A**

**ENERGY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION #EC 2023 – 07**

**MOVED:  
SECONDED:**

**AT THE MEETING HELD October 25, 2023  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT BUILDINGS UPGRADE  
PRIZE FOR MULTIFAMILY ELECTRIFICATION AND OTHER RELATED ACTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the Energy Council recognizes that it is in the interest of the local, regional, state, and federal agencies to stimulate the economy; create and retain jobs; reduce fossil fuel emissions; and reduce total energy usage and improve energy efficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Energy Council was formed to seek funding to develop and implement programs and policies that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources, and help create climate resilient communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Energy Council implements the Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements (BAMBE) program for the Bay Area Regional Energy Network; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Ventura invited Energy Council to submit a joint proposal serving 14 counties within the combined Tri-County Regional Energy Network and BayREN service territory; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Energy seeks to build capacity to accelerate equitable, widespread energy efficiency and electrification building upgrades across the country through the Buildings Upgrade Prize; and

**WHEREAS**, DOE is providing the Energy Council with a cash award of \$200,000 and technical assistance for the scope of work described in Attachment B;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Energy Council hereby authorizes the Executive Director to:

1. Accept funds in the amount of \$200,000 and make any necessary changes to the FY 2024 budget to add Project 1310 Multifamily DOE Buildings UP.
2. Allocate the necessary resources to implement and carry out the scope of work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director as the Board President's designee, is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Energy Council all award-related documents, including, but not limited to, applications, payment requests, agreements (including the hiring of temporary staff), and amendments necessary to secure funds and to implement the approved projects.

**ADOPTED this 25th day of October 2023, by the following votes:**

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAINED:**

I certify that under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Resolution #EC 2023– 07

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Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

**Attachment B**  
**Buildings UP Scope of Work**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Task 1. Convene team and project/funds management	\$20,000
Task 2. Finalize property and stakeholder selection criteria and identify properties and stakeholders based on criteria	\$50,000
Task 3. Conduct initial outreach to confirm desired property and stakeholder list to inform implementation plan	\$25,000
Task 4. Identify and secure additional funding sources	\$20,000
Task 5. Develop implementation plan	\$75,000
Task 6. Participate in Buildings UP and related training and events	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>