



DATE: October 27, 2021

TO: Energy Council

FROM: Emily Alvarez, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Home Energy Score Demonstration Project

SUMMARY

Staff is requesting Energy Council approval to enter into a contract with PG&E's Reach Codes Program to expand the application of StopWaste's Home Energy Score (HES) partnership to create greater impact in Alameda County and beyond. The proposed demonstration project would assist three jurisdictions in California that are interested in using the HES as a requirement for existing buildings to inform upgrades or set minimum efficiency standards. There is no geographic restriction on the location of the jurisdictions that participate in the project. StopWaste will prioritize outreach in Alameda County and the Bay Area.

DISCUSSION

StopWaste is the lead for BayREN's Green Labeling program, which promotes the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) HES throughout the nine Bay Area counties. Like a miles-per-gallon rating for a car, the HES is based on a standard assessment of energy-related assets to easily compare energy use across the housing market. During the assessment a multitude of data points are collected and homes are scored from 1 to 10, with 5 being an average home, 10 the most energy efficient, and 1 being the least energy efficient. Along with the score, homeowners receive estimated energy consumption, utility bills, and custom recommendations for improving energy efficiency. HES is an attractive and scalable tool because the assessment and accompanying report are low-cost, simple to conduct, and must meet rigorous DOE quality control standards. Further, studies have shown that when a score or rating such as HES is required for buildings, the real estate market responds by placing greater value on energy efficiency.

StopWaste began evaluating and implementing HES as a tool to support Alameda County jurisdictions' climate action goals for upgrading existing buildings several years ago. Staff advised and assisted the City of Berkeley on the development of its Building Emissions Savings Ordinance (BESO), which was the first existing building policy nationally to utilize an HES mandate. In 2015, StopWaste became an HES partner to support both the City of Berkeley's ordinance and a voluntary regional program in the Bay Area. An HES partner enrolls local assessors and commits to maintaining the DOE's quality assurance standards for scores. StopWaste has worked with the DOE on adapting HES for California conditions and is the highest volume HES partner in the state. In 2020 the BayREN program earned a DOE HES innovation award for successfully scaling a voluntary program.

As part of this demonstration project with PG&E's Reach Codes Program, StopWaste would conduct outreach and enroll three jurisdictions to adopt HES as part of their local code requirements. There is no geographic restriction on the location of the jurisdictions that participate in the project. StopWaste will prioritize outreach in Alameda County and the Bay Area and will also conduct outreach beyond our region. The objective is to expand the use of HES in a codes application in order to further develop the market for and generate additional examples of HES adoption and implementation that jurisdictions in Alameda County, the Bay Area and beyond can learn from and continue to leverage. As more diverse types of jurisdictions adopt Home Energy Score, it will become an increasingly accepted and familiar standard. This will facilitate lessons learned and HES use and adoption by additional Alameda County jurisdictions in the future.

PG&E will be issuing a contract of \$339,240.22 for this scope of work, summarized in Attachment B. The funding covers all of StopWaste's costs to implement the project, and the scope of work is designed to build on and supplement existing Agency efforts to accelerate adoption of HES.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with PG&E through December 2022 of up to \$339,240.22 for implementation of the contract and other related actions.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution #EC 2021- __

Attachment B: Proposed Scope of Work

Attachment A

**ENERGY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION #EC 2021 – __**

**MOVED:
SECONDED:**

**AT THE MEETING HELD October 27, 2021
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PG&E
STATEWIDE HOME ENERGY SCORE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

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 has entered into a partnership with the Department of Energy to offer the Home Energy Score (HES) as a low-cost assessment tool; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Council implements the Green Labeling program for the Bay Area Regional Energy Network and has the most active HES partnership in the state of California; and

WHEREAS, the PG&E Reach Codes program aims to support local governments considering developing existing residential building energy ordinances; and

WHEREAS, PG&E intends to provide the Energy Council with a contract of \$339,240.22 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. Enter into all necessary contracts and agreements with PG&E in order to accept funds of up to \$339,240.22 and make any necessary changes to the FY 2021-22 budget to add Project 1315: Statewide HES Demonstration.
2. Approve any required time extensions, modifications, or amendments thereto.
3. Allocate the necessary resources to implement and carry out the amended 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 grant-related documents, including, but not limited to, applications, payment requests, agreements (including the hiring of temporary staff), and amendments necessary to secure grant funds and to implement the approved grant projects.

ADOPTED this 27th day of October 2021, 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 2021 – __

Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

Attachment B
PG&E HES Statewide Demonstration Project Scope and Budget

Task	Description	Not-to-exceed
Home Energy Score Policy Support	Conduct outreach and enroll three (3) jurisdictions (cities or counties) throughout the state to adopt an HES policy. Assistance with identifying and crafting policy language.	\$44,308.51
HES Database Development	Update existing HES database to expand use beyond nine Bay Area counties.	\$73,363.40
Assessor Recruitment, Enrollment, and Support	Recruit, train, enroll, and support HES Assessors to perform scores.	\$62,526.48
Score and Rebate Processing	Conduct required DOE QA/QC on scores and process incentives.	\$99,219.00
Program Evaluation and Reporting	Regular team meetings, check-ins with DOE and participating jurisdictions and providing program tracking. At the end of the project, develop a report summarizing results and outline next steps.	\$46,940.67
Contract Administration	Monthly reports and management of contracts/consultants.	\$12,882.16
Total Budget		\$339,240.22