

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	23-DECARB-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Inflation Reduction Act Residential Energy Rebate Programs
<b>TN #:</b>	251591
<b>Document Title:</b>	California Request for Information on Inflation Reduction Act Contractor Training
<b>Description:</b>	The California Energy Commission is seeking input to inform preparation of its application to the U.S. Department of Energy for Inflation Reduction Act Contractor Training Program funding.
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<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
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**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814[energy.ca.gov](http://energy.ca.gov)

CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)

**IN THE MATTER OF:***Inflation Reduction Act Residential  
Energy Rebate Programs*

DOCKET NO. 23-DECARB-01

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

RE: Contractor Training for Inflation  
Reduction Act Residential Energy Rebate  
Programs

## **Request for Information Contractor Training for Inflation Reduction Act Residential Energy Rebate Programs**

The California Energy Commission (CEC) plans to apply to the U.S. Department of Energy for funding to provide contractor training for residential energy rebate programs funded by the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The CEC is seeking input to inform preparation of its application to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for IRA Contractor Training Program funding. CEC staff has developed a list of questions in the Input Request section below, but other feedback and topics are welcome.

Comments and any supporting documentation are due by **August 28, 2023**.

### **Background**

Achieving California's goals for building decarbonization requires comprehensive solutions to help scale successful programs and deliver options to overcome challenges, increase access, and improve affordability. There is a real risk that without thoughtful and intentional prioritization, the state's most vulnerable and underserved will be the last to receive the benefits of a clean energy future due to lack of capital, credit, and access to infrastructure.

The 2021 Integrated Energy Policy Report<sup>1</sup> called for significant investments in retrofitting California's nearly 13.7 million homes and more than 7.4 billion square feet of commercial space to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, allow consumers to address climate change impacts from extreme heat and wildfires, and to achieve California's climate goals.

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<sup>1</sup> Kenney, Michael, Jacob Wahlgren, Kristina Duloglo, Tiffany Mateo, Danuta Drozdowicz, and Stephanie Bailey. 2022. [Final 2021 Integrated Energy Policy Report, Volume I: Building Decarbonization](#). CEC. Publication Number: CEC-100-2021-001-V1. Available at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241361>.

The federal IRA will provide funding for residential energy efficiency and electrification. For households with low or moderate income, it funds point-of-sale rebates for qualified high-efficiency electric appliances, such as heat pumps for space heating and cooling. The legislation includes funding for contractor training.

On July 18, 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy released the [Administrative and Legal Requirements Document \(ALRD\) for the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grant Program](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/IRA-50123-ALRD-Contractor-Training-Program.pdf), <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/IRA-50123-ALRD-Contractor-Training-Program.pdf>. The goals of the program are to:<sup>2</sup>

- Reduce the cost of training contractor employees by providing workforce development tools for contractors, their employees, and individuals including, but not limited to, subsidizing available training, testing, and certifications.
- Provide testing and certifications of contractors trained and educated to install home energy efficiency and electrification technologies and deliver residential energy efficiency and electrification improvements.
- Partner with nonprofit organizations to develop and implement a state-sponsored workforce program that attracts and trains a diverse set of local workers to deliver the influx of new federally-funded energy efficiency and electrification programs—including but not limited to the IRA-funded Home Energy Rebate programs (IRA Sections 50121 and 50122).<sup>3</sup>

### **Input Request**

1. Please provide information on available state and federal residential energy contractor training and similar programs in California, including a list of organizations currently providing training, credentialing, and/or wrap around services. Please include references on:
  - a. Residential (single-family and multifamily) and commercial energy auditor availability and readiness;
  - b. Available skills assessment reports for existing education and training programs, such as on new energy technologies, latest best practices, or newly launching programs.
2. If IRA Contractor Training funds are used to supplement existing workforce development programs in California, which programs are most closely aligned with the goals of the IRA Contractor Training Program?
3. What gaps in existing workforce development programs in California can be addressed through the IRA Contractor Training Program? What is the current supply of qualified skilled energy efficiency workers compared to the projected future demand?
4. What certifications should be funded through contractor training for residential energy rebate programs in California to support the purpose of this funding and lead to good-quality jobs? As

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<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S.C. 18795b(b)(1)-(3).

<sup>3</sup> Text - H.R.5376 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5376/text). (2022, August 16). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5376/text>.

stated in the guidance from the U.S. Department of Energy on this topic:<sup>4</sup> good-quality jobs are jobs that pay sustaining wages with wage progression, benefits, access to paid leave, opportunities for career advancement through training and education, adequate staffing, safety and health protections, nondiscriminatory and harassment-free workplaces that promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) and, to the strongest extent possible, a platform for worker voice that supports all workers and ensures fair pay and safe working conditions.

5. What data is available to demonstrate that the proposed certifications in your response to Question 4 align with the skills and needs of California, meet energy workforce demands, and prepare that workforce to deliver energy efficiency, electrification, and clean energy improvements?
6. What performance metrics and numerical targets should California use to measure impact throughout the 48-month period of performance of DOE funding sought by the CEC to provide contractor training for the IRA residential energy rebate programs?
7. In the Community Benefits Plan required as part of the CEC application for DOE funding for contractor training for IRA residential energy rebate programs, how should the program ensure the delivery of measurable community and jobs benefits, and: 1) support meaningful community and labor engagement; (2) invest in America’s workforce; (3) advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and (4) contribute to President Biden’s goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities under the Justice40 Initiative.
8. Input on other topics welcomed.

### **Responses and Comments**

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket [23-DECARB-01](#) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=23-DECARB-01>.

Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the “Comment Text” box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 20, section 1208.1. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

**Written comments** may be submitted to the Docket Unit by **5:00 p.m. on August 28, 2023**. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, State and Community Energy Programs. July 17, 2023. [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grant Program Administrative and Legal Requirements Document](#). CFDA Number: 81.041. <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/IRA-50123-ALRD-Contractor-Training-Program.pdf>.

email. Include docket number **23-DECARB-01** and **Inflation Reduction Act Residential Energy Rebate Programs** in the subject line and email to [docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov).

A paper copy may be mailed to:

California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. 23-DECARB-01  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

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**Media Inquiries.** Email [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov) or call (916) 654-4989.

**General Inquiries.** Email the California IRA Residential Energy Rebate Team at [IRaresidentialenergyrebates@energy.ca.gov](mailto:IRaresidentialenergyrebates@energy.ca.gov), or call (916) 477-1086.

**Technical Subject Inquiries.** Email Jacob Wahlgren at [jacob.wahlgren@energy.ca.gov](mailto:jacob.wahlgren@energy.ca.gov).

**Availability of Documents:** Documents related to this request for information will be available at the Inflation Reduction Act Residential Energy Rebate Programs in California web page, at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/inflation-reduction-act-residential-energy-rebate-programs-california>, or at the docket [23-DECARB-01](#) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-DECARB-01>.

When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the "**Federal IRA Residential Incentives**" email subscription topic. To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](#), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

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