



# GreenTrends

The electronic newsletter of the FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION

August 3, 2009

## A Special Report on Economic Stimulus Funding

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### McGraw-Hill Provides Latest Stimulus News

McGraw-Hill Construction's Stimulus Special Section provides the latest information on the Federal Stimulus Package. It has the industry's most comprehensive list

### DOE Extends EECBG Funding Request Deadline

There have been two important updates to the application submission process for EECBG (Block Grants) direct formula grants:

First, late applications for direct formula funds will be accepted until August 10, 2009, 8:00:00 PM ET. Failure to meet this deadline will result in forfeiture of allocated funds. This extension will not delay the processing of those applications submitted by the initial deadline.

Second, DOE is aware that some applicants are experiencing difficulties submitting EECBG applications through FedConnect. Applications may also now be submitted via email to [eecbg@netl.doe.gov](mailto:eecbg@netl.doe.gov). [\[More\]](#)

### EECBG Eligible Activities Outlined

DOE designed as a resource for individuals looking for information and guidance on the 12 eligible activities under the EECBG Program. For each activity, the Solution Center has provided a definition, identified best practices and sample completed projects, and included links to other related resources. A few of the activities listed include:

#### Residential and Commercial Building Energy Audits

To help distribute stimulus monies, states and local governments can fund citywide residential and commercial building energy audit programs. These retrofit programs may be linked to specific energy efficiency and renewable energy applications, such as energy benchmarking tools as the ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) identifies three levels of energy audits:

Walk-through Assessment: energy bills are analyzed and, possibly, a brief visual survey of the facility is conducted. The subsequent report identifies no-cost and low-cost opportunities. This is the least costly of the three levels.

Energy Survey and Analysis: a more detailed analysis is

of Federal Stimulus construction projects (Shovel Ready and ARRA-Funded), in-depth economic forecasts and timely market research. [\[More\]](#)

### **Alabama Power Seeks Renewable Energy Resources**

Alabama Power Company is seeking bids for renewable energy resources available to meet Alabama Power's renewable energy program needs. Renewable energy resources are defined as those resources capable of supplying electrical energy from sources such as solar, wind, hydro, biomass, landfill gas, and other renewable sources. [\[More\]](#)

### **Green Initiatives Database Offered by NACO**

The National Association of Counties Green Government Initiative launched a searchable database of county green programs, policies, plans, staff descriptions and more. Meant to be a comprehensive resource on all

conducted, including a breakdown of how energy is used within the building. Recommendations consider an owner's operations and maintenance, constraints, and economic criteria. Potential capital-intensive opportunities are identified in the final report for further research and analysis. This is the typical level of audit.

[Detailed Analysis of Capital-Intensive Modifications \(Investment-grade Audit\)](#): this analysis focuses on capital-intensive opportunities and provides a higher degree of monitoring, data collection, and engineering analysis. The report includes detailed cost and savings information with a high-level of confidence sufficient for major capital investment decisions, and may include a reasonable timeline for implementation of each recommendation. [\[More\]](#)

### **Development of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy**

Energy or sustainability plans are the basic building blocks used to implement energy efficiency strategies designed to reduce fossil fuel emissions in transportation, building, and other applicable public and private sectors. Ambitious energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction goals require long-term strategic planning to effect lasting market transformation for energy efficiency. Various methodologies designed to reduce total energy use and improve energy efficiency include as their first step the development of an energy efficiency and conservation plan which becomes the road-map for detailing priorities, setting goals, and establishing objectives. Read the [DOE Best Practices for Energy Efficiency](#) and view a sample EECB "Attachment D" Strategic Plan for [Counties](#) or [Cities](#).

### **Material Conservation Programs**

Comprehensive preparation and planning by community organizations can lead to energy efficiency through implementation of a material conservation program. Hiring a resource conservation manager to oversee energy and other waste stream management and conservation activities enhances the effectiveness of the program and helps ensure that the energy efficiency and materials conservation goals of the program are met.

### **Reduction and Capture of Methane and Greenhouse Gases**

Entities may use grant funds to purchase and implement technologies to reduce, capture, and, to the maximum extent practicable, use methane and other greenhouse gases generated by landfills or similar waste-related sources, such as wastewater treatment plants, operations producing food waste, dairy farms and other animal operations.

### **Energy Efficiency Retrofits**

things green for counties, NACo continually updates the database as more programs are developed. [[More](#)]

## Calendar

### **Aug 5-8, 2009 Florida Engineering Society**

Summer Conference  
The Breakers  
West Palm Beach, FL  
[www.fleng.org](http://www.fleng.org)

### **Aug 13-15, 2009 Florida League of Cities**

Annual Conference  
Orlando World Center  
Marriott  
Orlando, FL  
PH: (850) 222-9684

### **Aug. 18-23, 2009 FL Association of Realtors**

Convention & Trade Expo  
Rosen Shingle Creek  
Resort  
Orlando, FL  
PH: 800.669.4327

### **Aug 20-22, 2009 FL Building Materials Association**

Annual Convention  
Gaylords Palm Resort  
Orlando, FL  
[www.fbma.org](http://www.fbma.org)

### **Sept 21-23, 2009 Florida Housing Coalition**

Affordable Housing  
Conference  
Rosen Shingle Creek  
Orlando, FL  
[www.flhousing.org](http://www.flhousing.org)

### **Sept 28-30, 2009 EEBA**

Denver, CO  
[\[More\]](#)

Energy efficiency retrofits can revitalize the infrastructure of cities and counties by stimulating new green-growth in established buildings, on streets, and within government facilities. Homeowners and businesses could qualify for direct cash incentives, interest rate subsidies, and credit support based on the percentage increase in efficiency they achieve to help them implement energy saving projects that reduce energy-related greenhouse gases (GHGs). Entities can utilize funding to provide facility manager and staff training and certification, purchase diagnostic equipment to identify areas of improvement and enhance maintenance practices, and implement new technologies and/or fund community nonprofit organizations to conduct audits in small business or within local government facilities.

## **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities**

Energy efficiency and conservation program for buildings and facilities provide energy-efficient building best practices and resources for designing, building, and operating commercial and residential buildings. Consider "whole building design" strategies to achieve a true high-performance building - one that is cost-effective over its entire life cycle, safe, secure, accessible, flexible, aesthetic, productive, and sustainable. Consider programs that impact new and existing subdivisions or neighborhoods from homes to businesses.

## **Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings**

Renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, biomass or fuel cell energy are eligible for development and installation on or in any government building of a grantee. Before investing in any kind of power generation technology, grantees are encouraged to first cut total energy consumption by taking the appropriate steps to maximize energy efficiency.

## **Building Codes and Inspections**

Energy efficient building codes and inspections help local governments establish plans to create advanced sustainable and green building codes and incentives that are greater than the current code for their communities. The program provides guidance for promoting building practices and technologies that support whole building design and renewable energy applications

## **Technical Consulting Services**

Technical consultant services are a great opportunity to receive additional expertise to establish a new or build upon an existing plan, policy, or initiative, and to successfully implement those plans within an organization.

## **Development and Implementation of Transportation Programs**

Development and implementation of transportation programs help local governments create community-regional transit-oriented programs such as the promotion of zoning guidelines or requirements that promote the development and implementation of energy efficient transportation systems.

### **Traffic Signal and Street Lighting**

Most communities spend tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars each year powering traffic signals and lighting streets and public parking lots. If your community has not yet explored energy efficiency options in these areas, chances are you have great potential to save money.

For complete information about the eligible activities, view the [EECGB Solution Center website](#)

### **NACo Sponsors County Government Competition July 1-Nov 30**

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is sponsoring two competitions to encourage local communities to become more sustainable. Through the "Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR Campaign," counties collect pledges from county employees and residents to change a light in their home to an energy-efficient one and choose among a variety of other actions they can take to help save energy. Three winning counties will earn \$5,000 grants courtesy of Wal-Mart .

The "County Drive Smarter Challenge" motivates and empowers county employees and residents to educate themselves on how to reduce gasoline use by keeping their cars in good working order, driving less, and driving more fuel efficiently. Three winning counties will earn \$3,500 grants courtesy of Auto-Zone. [\[More\]](#)

**Sincerely,**

*Suzanne B. Cook, CAE*  
Executive Director

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