

March 2009 Volume 6

## Community Energy Challenge Monthly Update

Welcome to the *Community Energy Challenge Monthly Update*, a monthly publication by EPA New England promoting energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act News from the Department of Energy (DOE)**  
The big energy news this month occurred on February 17, when President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also called the Recovery Act. Within the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program, (EERE), the Weatherization Assistance Program, (<http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/>), the State Energy Program, ([http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/state\\_energy\\_program/](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/state_energy_program/)), and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, ([http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/wip/block\\_grants.cfm](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/wip/block_grants.cfm)) receive the largest increases in funding.

EERE funding within the Recovery Act includes:

- \$5 billion for the Weatherization Assistance Program;
- \$3.1 billion for the State Energy Program;
- \$3.2 billion for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants;
- \$2.5 billion for Applied Research, Development, Demonstration and Deployment;
- \$2 billion for Advanced Battery Manufacturing Grants;
- \$400 million for transportation electrification;
- \$300 million for an Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program and ENERGY STAR®;
- \$300 million for an Alternative Fueled-Vehicles Pilot Grant Program

For more information on EERE and to sign up for the EERE Program monthly newsletter go to:  
[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/program\\_news.cfm](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/program_news.cfm)

## 2) Track Energy Bills in the New Hampshire Legislature

The NH Office of Energy and Planning (NH OEP) has made it one step easier for New Hampshire residents to find out and track the progress of the energy bills before the State's Legislature. They have compiled a list of all of the energy and municipal planning legislation for 2009 and provided a link to the status of the bill. Each bill will have a public hearing allowing anyone to speak in favor or opposition to the bill. **Have your voice heard and learn more about the legislative process by attending a public meeting at the statehouse.**

To view the list of energy and municipal planning legislation, visit NH OEP's website at  
[http://www.nh.gov/oep/legislation/2009/selected\\_legislation.htm](http://www.nh.gov/oep/legislation/2009/selected_legislation.htm)

## 3) Updates to ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager Software

Effective February 23, 2009, important updates were made in Portfolio Manager which will impact your energy performance ratings for any facilities with Hotel, K-12 School, or Swimming Pool spaces. EPA has updated the methodologies used to create ratings for buildings composed of these space types with the new 2003 Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) data. These updates reflect the most recent market data available and an improved statistical methodology. These changes will enable you to receive more accurate energy performance ratings, which will facilitate tracking and managing energy performance at your buildings. Due to the application of more recent market data, most buildings are likely to experience a change in their rating. Note that EPA does not know how these changes will affect ratings of specific individual buildings, in advance.

### New Requirements

The updated rating model methodology will require the following new pieces of information for Hotel, K-12 School, and Swimming Pool space:

- **Hotels:** Number of Workers on Main Shift; Presence of Commercial Cooking Facility; Number of Commercial Refrigeration/Freezer Units; Percent of the Gross Floor Area that is heated; and Percent of the Gross Floor Area that is cooled
- **K-12 Schools:** Whether or not the school is open on weekends; Number of Walk-in Refrigeration/Freezer Units; and Whether or not the school is a high school
- **Swimming Pools:** Whether the pool is an indoor or outdoor pool

When the updates were released on February 23, 2009, your building was assigned default values for each of these attributes. To ensure that these facilities in your account continue to receive the most accurate energy performance ratings, please log into Portfolio Manager and provide actual information to replace default values. Please note that you cannot apply for the ENERGY STAR with default values.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact <mailto:buildings@energystar.gov>.

## **ARTICLES**

### **1) Builder offers 'green' homes in Kittery subdivision**

Devon Woods was designed by Portsmouth architect Wendy Welton of Artform Architecture to serve a growing niche market: Couples and families seeking energy-efficient homes with smaller footprints and lots, and amenities such as underground utilities and front porches. "The homes are more modest than those that were popular just a few years ago," said marketing director Jennifer Chinburg. "The front porches speak to a desire for community; energy efficiency and a compact footprint draw people who want to be more responsible with resources."

One example is the Fiddlehead, which is built to ENERGY STAR standards, and fits three bedrooms, two-and-half baths, and a two-car, drive-under garage in 1,360 square feet. The lot is 0.8 acres. Find the complete story at: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20090208-BIZ-902080328>

### **2) Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, NH participates in Green Cup Challenge**

As part of the Green Cup Challenge, Kimball Union Academy students and faculty are working to raise the community's environmental and energy consciousness. Students and faculty are reducing personal as well as school-wide environmental consumption - from turning their own lights and appliances off when not needed - to reducing water consumption - to leaving the dining hall lights off when the windows light the room just fine.

The Green Cup Challenge™ (GCC) is the first and only national student-driven, interschool Climate Challenge that supports student efforts to measure and reduce campus electricity use and related greenhouse gas emissions, and to encourage water efficiency, waste reduction, and recycling. The GCC builds awareness about climate change, educates the community about the importance of resource conservation, and encourages the participation of the entire campus. The GCC event takes place each February to call attention to peak energy use, and to and to provide an opportunity to make every day Earth Day.

Find the complete story at: <http://www.admissionsquest.com/onboardingschools/2009/02/kimball-union-academys-conservation.html>

### **3) Google tool helps consumers reduce energy usage**

Google Inc. said it would use its software skills to help consumers track their home energy usage and thereby lower demand and the global warming emissions that come from producing electricity. The move is part of Google's effort to pump hundreds of millions of dollars into renewable energy, electricity-grid upgrades and other measures that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The company has already invested in several fledgling solar, wind and geothermal companies, as well as two "smart grid" companies. Smart grid describes a more efficient, less costly method of moving electricity along long-distance transmission lines to local power lines and end-users in homes and businesses.

On its official company blog, Google said it is developing a smart grid tool called Google PowerMeter that will show home energy consumption almost in real time on a user's computer. The company cited studies showing that access to home energy information typically saves between 5 percent and 15 percent on monthly electricity bills. "It may not sound like much, but if half of America's households cut their energy demand by 10 percent, it would be the equivalent of taking eight million cars off the road," Google said. Google PowerMeter is currently being tested by employees and is not yet available to the public. The company hopes to develop partnerships with utilities so it can roll PowerMeter out to consumers in the next few months.

More information is available at: <http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2009/02/power-to-people.html>

## **EVENTS**

### **1) Northeast Sustainable Energy Association Workshop for Municipalities**

Interested in saving energy and money? Would you like to make headway towards your Community Energy Challenge commitment? Please join us at 9 am on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston for a special three-hour session on municipal energy. This workshop, held at the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association's highly regarded Building Energy 09 Conference, (<http://www.buildingenergy.nesea.org/>), will feature presentations from EPA, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability. Participants will learn about ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager, the Energy Information System, and the CACP tool.

Together, we will map out popular tools and resources available to communities, particularly those in Massachusetts. We will also address Recovery Act funding for cities and towns. A facilitated discussion will follow the presentations to allow community members to meet each other, share stories, develop user support networks for Portfolio Manager, and provide EPA with feedback.

NESEA is offering town staff, municipal officials, local energy committee members, and others interested in community energy issues a special workshop rate of \$30 (regularly \$155). For more information, contact Mary Biddle, conference organizer at [mbiddle@nesea.org](mailto:mbiddle@nesea.org) or Shubhada Kambli, EPA New England Energy Unit member, at [kambli.shubhada.@epa.gov](mailto:kambli.shubhada.@epa.gov) or 617-918-1584.

### **2) New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference**

The NH Office of Energy and Planning is pleased to extend an invitation to attend the 16th Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, New Hampshire. This year's conference will offer Planning and Zoning Board members topics of municipal and statewide interest. Attendees will acquire new ideas and greater knowledge to help support their role in serving the communities of New Hampshire.

Registration materials will be available online beginning March 2, 2009. For more information on this conference, please go to:

[http://www.nh.gov/oep/events/spring\\_conference/index.htm](http://www.nh.gov/oep/events/spring_conference/index.htm)

### **3) Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) Summit**

Please join NEEP on May 27-28 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, NY for 2009 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit as they address how the Northeast is, and can continue to lead the way for a changing energy policy that puts efficiency first.

This two-day program includes:

- Workforce Development Workshop
- Municipal Leaders for Energy Efficiency Recognition and Reception
- Full day Exhibition of efficiency services and technologies
- Full day Conference featuring policy and application panels
- Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency Luncheon

For more information, please go to: <http://www.neep.org/conference/2009/index.html>

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **1) Smart Growth Implementation Assistance 2009 Request for Applications**

The Development, Community, and Environment Division in EPA's Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation is seeking applications for technical assistance from communities that want to incorporate smart growth in their future development to meet environmental and other community goals. Eligible entities are tribal, local, regional, and state governments, and nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity. Applications are due at 5:00 pm EST, April 23, 2009.

EPA has identified some key areas in which communities are likely to benefit from technical assistance:

- Climate change (both mitigation of and adaptation to)
- Green job development
- Corridor redevelopment
- Green building development
- Suburban retrofitting
- Disaster resiliency

Proposals are not limited to requests for technical assistance in only these thematic areas; other topics for assistance are welcome and encouraged, provided they demonstrate cutting-edge challenges and the possibility of replicable solutions. EPA is soliciting applications for assistance with either policy analysis or public participatory processes. The type of work may incorporate policy analysis and review, planning and visioning processes, scorecard/ranking criteria development and assessment, and/or other elements pertinent to the role of the applicant.

Selected communities or states will receive assistance in the form of a multi-day visit from a team of experts organized by EPA and other national partners to work with local leaders. EPA plans to assist three to five communities over a period of twelve months. The Agency anticipates announcing the selected communities in fall of 2009. For more information and application materials visit [http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2009\\_sgia\\_rfa.htm](http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2009_sgia_rfa.htm)

### **2) Creative Energy Project**

Johnson Controls and the National Energy Foundation invite students K-12 to enter the Igniting Creative Energy competition, a program designed to encourage students to learn more about energy and the environment. Student entries should demonstrate an understanding of what an individual, family, or group can do in their home, school, or community to conserve energy and help the environment. Students may express their ideas in any creative format such as science projects, recent service projects, essays, stories, artwork, photographs, music, videos, web-based applications, multimedia projects, etc. Grand prize winners will receive a hosted trip to Washington D.C. and share proposal with government and energy leaders during the June, 2009 20th Annual Energy Efficiency Forum at the National Press Club. Responses due March 13, 2009.

For more information go to: <http://www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org/>.

### **3) DOE Solar America Showcase Technical Assistance Available**

DOE has announced availability of up to \$2 million in technical assistance through Solar America Showcases. The Showcases are designed to help facilitate large-scale installations that involve cutting-edge solar technologies, novel applications of solar, high visibility sites, and/or high likelihood of replicability. Assistance is provided through teams of DOE-funded solar experts from national laboratories and includes regulatory and permitting assistance, analysis of financing options, cost/benefit analysis, structural and architectural analysis, design assistance, and bid specification preparation.

Eight to 16 awards are expected during calendar year 2009. The Notice of Opportunity will close and reopen each quarter for review of applications. Applications received prior to the end of each quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31) will be reviewed during the following quarter. Eligible applicants include state and local governments, private sector for-profit and non-profit organizations, and trade and other associations, as long as the installation is located in the United States. Examples of past state and local government awardees include Solar Public Schools, Washington, D.C.; Zero Energy Housing Development, State of New Mexico; City of San Jose, California; and Convention Center, Orange County, Florida.

For more information or to view the full Notice of Technical Assistance, please visit:  
[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar\\_america\\_showcases.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america_showcases.html)

### **TIP OF THE MONTH**

#### **1) Needham, MA 10% Energy Challenge**

Green Needham Collaborative has created the 10 percent Energy Challenge, a web-based program for reducing your carbon footprint by 10 percent. To participate in the challenge, visit <http://www.challenge.greenneedham.org/>, click a few buttons, and let the program do the number crunching. You can start with the carbon footprint of the average American household (54,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year) or use an online calculator to compute your actual number. CO<sub>2</sub> is the most common of the greenhouse gases that lead to global warming.

The Green Needham program provides a running total of how many pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> you can keep out of the atmosphere through such basic steps as turning down the thermostat, replacing light bulbs and changing driving habits. In addition, you can see the impact of more ambitious projects, such as adding insulation, replacing an old furnace and buying a more fuel-efficient car. The program includes links to more in-depth information, such as how to cut hot water bills or starve the vampire that sucks power from TVs, computers and other devices even when they are turned off. It offers 18 suggestions for shrinking your footprint. Adopting just a few can make a big difference. When you're done, you'll have a plan tailored to your household that you can print it out for easy reference.

Green Needham, together with the Needham League of Women Voters, is spreading the word about the 10 percent Energy Challenge by speaking to schools, churches and civic organizations. The town of Needham, through the EPA Community Energy Challenge, has already committed to reducing its energy use, and a separate effort is underway to bring businesses on board.

Send entries for this update and your tips on Energy Efficiency for municipalities or homeowners to: Linda Darveau at [darveau.linda@epa.gov](mailto:darveau.linda@epa.gov) or (617) 918-1718

### **TOOLS/TRAINING**

#### **1) March 12 Energy Efficiency Stimulus Funding Technical Assistance Webinar**

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, state and local governments will receive substantial funding to implement energy efficiency initiatives in their jurisdictions. Join the U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR team for this practical session that will provide you with the knowledge you need to leverage ENERGY STAR resources.

An interactive webinar will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2009, from 1:00-2:30 pm, where you will learn:

- 1) Opportunities in existing buildings for quick reductions in energy use.
- 2) How EPA's Portfolio Manager (an energy tracking system for buildings) can be used to quickly and easily prioritize energy efficiency projects in buildings, measure progress, and verify/report results.

3) How you can leverage the ENERGY STAR program to help create a self-renewing energy management program for the long term.

Guest speakers from state and local ENERGY STAR partners will highlight ways they have used EPA's Portfolio Manager as the energy tracking tool for public buildings as well as a platform for private sector building energy efficiency initiatives.

Speakers for this session will include:

- Mike Zatz, chief of the ENERGY STAR Market Sectors Group, U.S. EPA, will provide an overview of the tools and resources available through ENERGY STAR.
- Eric Coffman, senior energy planner for Montgomery County, Maryland, will describe how the county is using Portfolio Manager to identify the buildings with the greatest opportunity for improvements (invited).
- Julien Gaudion from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will explain how Portfolio Manager is being used to track and report on the results of small business energy efficiency grants disbursed by the commonwealth.

Participants will need to register for this webinar. To register, please complete the following steps:

- Visit : <https://energystar.webex.com/mw03051/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=energystar>
- Click on the March 12 session entitled “Make the Most of Your Energy Efficiency Stimulus Funding - Plan, Monitor, and Report Results with ENERGY STAR Tools”

## **2) Innovative Financing for Solar and Efficiency-The California Model**

April 1, 12-1:30 pm, \$295.00

The high "first cost" of energy efficiency retrofits and solar installations is a significant barrier to adoption. Monies for rebate and incentive programs in many states have been exhausted because of high demand and traditional sources of credit have dried up for many consumers and businesses. The challenge is to find new and innovative ways to finance these projects.

Francisco DeVries, president and a co-founder of Oakland, CA based Renewable Funding LLC, hit upon the idea to modify tax assessment district law to fund the prohibitive “first costs” of solar and energy efficiency while working for the mayor of Berkeley, CA in 2008. The innovation, BerkeleyFIRST, attracted national and international attention because it allowed home and business owners for the first time to pay for solar and energy efficiency projects on their property tax bills over 20 years. Francisco will be explaining how the Berkeley model can be adapted to create a number of innovative solutions across the country.

Merrian Fuller, graduate researcher at the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL) at UC Berkeley, will discuss her study on existing financing programs and their limitations. Merrian will explain that due to the limitations of existing programs, Clean Energy Municipal Financing (CEMF) will become a key to rapid deployment of renewables.

Join Francisco and Merrian as they explain this new method, CityFIRST, their experiences with other alternatives, and join them for a question and answer session to assess how innovative financing will facilitate the next phase of efficiency and renewable adoption.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Appraise the merits of previous financing methods for renewable development, and identify strengths and weaknesses
- Recognize the funding challenges and shortfalls that are depleting present mechanisms
- Evaluate the successes of the BerkeleyFIRST innovation
- Compare how the FIRST model is being replicated around the country

- Recognize how the design of the BerkeleyFIRST program can be adapted to a variety of innovative funding alternatives.

For more information or to register go to: [https://www.euci.com/web\\_conferences/0409-solar-financing/agenda.php](https://www.euci.com/web_conferences/0409-solar-financing/agenda.php)

### **3) Daylighting Webinar: Lighting Every Building Using the Sky**

Learn how to use natural light to illuminate building spaces, save energy and reduce costs! Energy Center University in partnership with the Daylighting Collaborative is offering a free webinar, Daylighting: Lighting Every Building Using the Sky on March 18, 2009.

Integrated daylighting design is the key to whole building energy savings and a successful sustainable design. This 1.5 hour webinar examines critical daylighting design techniques and considerations. Participants will gain an overall understanding of how to approach daylighting design. Topics from this webinar include: definition of successful daylighting, components of daylighting design, integration with electric lighting, top and side lighting strategies, HVAC savings with daylighting and current daylighting software tools.

This webinar will be presented by Abby Vogen Horn, Senior Project Manager, Energy Center of Wisconsin and is designed for architects, lighting professionals, interior designers, building design professionals, engineers and anyone interested in learning about daylighting.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ecw.org/university/ecuevent.php?ecuid=2>.

### **4) Energy Efficiency In High Performance Schools**

March 26, 2009 - 10:00 am

Event Length: 90 minutes

National Grid invites you to attend a free energy efficiency seminar designed for schools seeking to reduce their energy usage. Join them on Thursday, March 26 from 10:00a.m. - 11:30 a.m. With energy costs on the rise, improving energy efficiency is a topic on everyone's mind. Through this event, a National Grid expert will provide advice for measures that you can take to improve energy efficiency in your school buildings, including conversion incentives for converting your building from an alternate fuel to clean efficient natural gas.

If you are in the process of constructing or upgrading a building, they will also discuss how National Grid can assist you with obtaining additional funding from your state. This information will help you manage your energy usage and assist you with becoming a high performance school. There will also be time for Q&A with the speakers who have extensive industry experience and technical knowledge in providing energy solutions to various school districts. To register go to: <http://ems.intellor.com/?p=202329&t=54>

### **5) ENERGY STAR Webinars**

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Starting time: 12:00 pm

Duration: 2 hours

Presenter: Dr. Sharon L. Levin

Description: This training will cover strategies for improving the Energy Performance Ratings of office buildings. You will learn how to identify and quantify low-cost opportunities to improve building and portfolio-wide energy performance in operations and maintenance, occupants' behaviors, lighting, controls, and equipment. Estimated energy and financial savings are discussed throughout the training. An understanding of U.S. EPA's Portfolio Manager is strongly recommended, however all participants are welcome. Who should participate: Commercial real estate owners, property managers, and building engineers.

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Starting time: 1:30 pm

Duration: 1 hour

Presenter: Robert Huang

Description: PC Power Management: This presentation describes an ENERGY STAR offering that is helping organizations realize substantial energy and financial savings available from computer and monitor power management. This training introduces an innovative software tool that enables monitor power management from a central location, as well as educational outreach material. Organizations utilizing this free software (which may be downloaded from the Web) can save \$10 to \$50 per computer. Who should participate: IT staff, energy managers, building managers, and upper management.

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Starting time: 11:30 am

Duration: 2 hours

Presenter: Dr. Sharon L. Levin

Description: Learn how EPA's Portfolio Manager can help you evaluate the energy performance of facilities you own, manage, or hold for investment. This training will cover creating a user account, identifying data requirements, managing and sharing information, and establishing an energy performance rating. The rating serves as a benchmark to compare the energy performance of your facility against similar ones across the nation. From a portfolio perspective, energy performance ratings provide valuable information for making decisions regarding investments in energy efficiency, developing energy management plans, and measuring improvement over time. Who should participate: Property managers, energy managers, engineers, and organizational leaders interested in learning about energy performance benchmarking

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Starting time: 2:00 pm,

Duration: 1 hour

Presenter: Steve Jurovics

Description: Purchasing products with the ENERGY STAR label can substantially reduce your organization's energy use and costs. This training includes information about EPA support to help your organization purchase products with superior energy performance; guidelines that define energy performance for numerous products; sample procurement language for stipulating energy performance attributes to vendors; lists of ENERGY STAR labeled products; and energy savings software that calculates the life cycle costs of ENERGY STAR products and their less efficient counterparts. Certificates of Participation are available upon request for individuals wishing to pursue continuing education credits (CEUs). EPA and DOE make no guarantee that this course is eligible for CEUs. Please contact your accrediting organization to determine eligibility.

For more information and to register for these free trainings go to

<https://energystar.webex.com/mw03051/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=energystar&service=7%20>.

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All 131 communities in New England Community Energy Challenge program will automatically receive this email unless they indicate that they would like to be removed from the list. All other New England communities that would like to receive it are welcome to subscribe as well (for more information on joining the Challenge please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/energy/energy-challenge.html>.) For additions or deletions from this email list or if you have ideas on information that you would like to see in future monthly updates, please contact Linda Darveau of EPA New England at [darveau.linda@epa.gov](mailto:darveau.linda@epa.gov) or at (617) 918-1718.