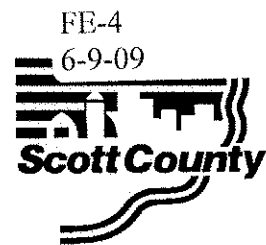


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June 3, 2009

To: Dee F. Bruemmer
County Administrator

From: Dave Donovan, Director
Facility and Support Services

Subj: Energy Efficiency Community Block grant application

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Energy set aside stimulus monies for energy efficiency activities. With those funds, they created the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) program. That program allocated grant funds, based on population, for each state and the largest counties within each state. As one of the largest counties in Iowa, Scott County was allocated \$260,400 for this grant program. To receive the funding, we must submit an application for approval. Said application, like most federal grant processes, is quite complex with several components. I have begun by registering Scott County with the various on-line verification services to allow us to submit the grant application electronically as required by the solicitation. Additionally, I have registered with the National Association of Counties staff that are providing technical assistance and an information clearinghouse for participating counties. The full application is due by June 25, 2009.

The goals and objectives for the EECBG funds are quite ambitious. Since there are stimulus monies involved, one over-arching goal is to inject funds into the local economy. Additionally, the goals of the sponsoring agency (DOE) include the promotion and enhancement of energy efficiency and sustainability in our community. Our application must include a detailed description of how we propose to use said funds. Those activities must align with our Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, also an application requirement. The development of a strategy seems to be the most controversial aspect of this grant opportunity. From the grant application document:

"Describe your government's proposed Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. Provide a concise summary of your measurable goals and objectives, which should be aligned with the defined purposes and eligible activities of the EECBG Program. These goals and objectives should be comprehensive and maximize benefits community-wide. Provide a schedule or timetable for major milestones. If your government has an existing energy, climate, or other related strategy please describe how these strategies relate to each other."

NACO continues to field numerous questions, host web presentations and provide sample documents regarding the strategy portion of the application. Fortunately, the grant application

allows an additional 120 days beyond the June 25 deadline to submit the strategy. From my research in the grant guidance and the NACO resources, I find that the strategy must include:

- 1) Activities to encourage and enhance energy efficiency and sustainability in government operations;
- 2) Maximizing the impact of the EECBG funds;
- 3) Outreach into the community to encourage energy efficiency and sustainability efforts and outcomes;
- 4) Exploring collaborative opportunities with other jurisdictions or agencies to ensure coordination and effectiveness;
- 5) Planning that goes well beyond the EECBG funds and encourages systemic, long term change that leads to energy efficiency and sustainable outcomes.

The guidance provided for the strategy, seems to indicate that we have an immense opportunity that indeed does go well beyond the funding of this grant. As you know, the Board of Supervisors goals for the current year include the development of a sustainability plan and a community education program for sustainability. As you and I discussed at our last two management meetings, it seems to make sense that we collaborate with other jurisdictions as we take our message to the community. These goals seem to align very well with the required strategy for the EECBG.

To meet the June 25 deadline, I suggest the following action steps:

- Pass a Board resolution on June 11 authorizing the signing and submission of the grant with the following proposed use of funds:
 - a. \$180,000 for a geothermal ground source HVAC system for the SECC facility;
 - b. \$25,000 for the development of a county-wide sustainability assessment and action plan;
 - c. \$30,000 for energy audits on county facilities;
 - d. \$20,000 for possible collaborative effort with the city of Davenport on an energy incentive or loan program; In the event that this collaboration is not feasible, these funds would also be used for building energy audits;
 - e. \$5,400 for grant administration;
- Defer the submission of our EECBG strategy for 120 days – develop this strategy in the context of a larger community-wide sustainability discussion;
- Authorize the County Administrator and the Facility and Support Services Director to finalize the grant budget and proposed activities based on the above tentative activities;
- Authorize the County Administrator and the Facility and Support Services Director to discuss collaborative possibilities with city staff managing their EECBG application;
- Proceed with the development of our sustainability policies and community outreach effort in the larger context of a community-wide effort and incorporating the strategies and funding afforded by the EECBG grant monies; this effort would likely utilize resources from the Bi-State Regional Commission to facilitate community-wide planning with other stakeholders.

Again, I think this grant opportunity provides us with a unique opportunity considering our current goals and policy development. It provides us the opportunity to investigate,

assess and implement energy efficient strategies at several county facilities while also placing added impetus and monies behind our efforts regarding sustainability, both at the organizational level as well as into the community at large. I will be at the next Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss this grant opportunity further and to answer any questions the Board may have.

Cc: The Green Team

