

DOE Technical Assistance Program

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY | Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Energy



The Parker Ranch installation in Hawaii

Chuck Clinton, NASEO
Jay Fisette, Arlington County, VA
Michael Yambrach, Washington, D.C.
Kaci Radcliffe, Skagit County, WA
Jennifer Clymer, ICF International

**Furthering Your Local
Government's Energy Efficiency
Goals – Part 1: Gaining Support
from Local Leaders**
July 26, 2011

What is TAP?

DOE's Technical Assistance Program (TAP) supports the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) and the State Energy Program (SEP) by providing state, local, and tribal officials the tools and resources needed to implement successful and sustainable clean energy programs.



TAP offers:

- One-on-one assistance
- Extensive online resource library, including:
 - Webinars
 - Events calendar
 - TAP Blog
 - Best practices and project resources
- Facilitation of peer exchange

On topics including:

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies
- Program design and implementation
- Financing
- Performance contracting
- State and local capacity building

Access the TAP Blog!
<http://www.eereblogs.energy.gov/tap/>

Provides a platform for state, local, and tribal government officials and DOE's network of technical and programmatic experts to connect and share best practices on a variety of topics.

Technical Assistance Program Blog

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Local Energy Rebate Programs

June 11, 2010 11:19 | [Comments \(1\)](#)

Maggie from Florida asks: Anyone implement an energy rebate program at a local level? Is it being managed by staff or was it contracted out competitively? Any advice on how to best implement/manage such a program?

The TAP Team responds: There are quite a few good examples of energy programs offered at a local level that offer rebates, technical assistance and other incentives. A few of these include the following:

- The City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County in Virginia jointly formed the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) which is creating and administering energy efficiency (EE) programs for the residential sector. The Southeast EE Alliance (SEEA) seed funded the creation of LEAP in 2009 and the county and city have each allocated EECBG funds for LEAP to take programs to scale. They are currently working on rebates, incentives, and a local contractor network to deliver services to the residential sector. LEAP site: www.leap-va.org
- The town of Babylon, New York has rolled out the Long Island Green Homes Program in which residents can make energy efficient improvements to their homes at little or no cost and without assuming new debt through some innovative municipality-based financing initiatives. <http://www.townofbabylon.com/whatsnew.cfm?id=252>
- The Cambridge (Massachusetts) Energy Alliance is a not-for-profit organization created to save residents money, while reducing Cambridge's carbon footprint. The Alliance is working with homeowners, businesses and institutions across the city to achieve unprecedented levels of energy savings and to expand clean energy sources. They offer:
 - Comprehensive energy assessments/audits for Cambridge buildings, generally for free
 - Up to 30% reductions in energy bills
 - Energy efficiency upgrades with no up front cash required
 - A one-stop energy solution with guaranteed quality
 - See: <http://www.cambridgeenergyalliance.org/>
- The ClimateSmart programs are run by the City of Boulder, Colorado's Office of Environmental Affairs. For information on Boulder's programs, see: http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1050&Itemid=336

The management of these programs varies. The municipalities listed above include both municipal staff tasked with running these programs and others that have an outside non-profit organization providing services on behalf of the municipality. There are other examples of municipalities that outsource these services to for-profit consulting firms (Charleston, SC is about to put out an RFP to hire one).

There is not one best way to go on implementing/managing municipal EE programs. There are good reasons and justifications for each of these three models. If the municipality is

BLOG HOME

PAGES

- [TAP Blog Policy](#)

ABOUT THE BLOG

The Technical Assistance Program Blog provides a platform for state, local, and tribal government officials that receive funding from the DOE State Energy Program and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants to connect with technical and programmatic experts and share best practices about their renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. Can't find what you're looking for? Contact the TAP Blog Team via email to suggest a topic or submit materials you'd like to share.

RELATED LINKS

- [Energy Information Center](#)
- [Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy](#)
- [Weatherization & Intergovernmental Program](#)
- [Technical Assistance Program](#)
- [Solution Center](#)

SEARCH

Enter search term

☐ Include comments in search

CATEGORIES

- [Buy American](#)
- [Davis-Bacon Act](#)
- [Financing](#)
- [Historic Preservation](#)
- [Webinar](#)

ARCHIVES

2010

- [June \(1\)](#)
- [May \(6\)](#)
- [April \(1\)](#)
- [March \(1\)](#)
- [January \(1\)](#)

2009

- [December \(1\)](#)
- [November \(1\)](#)
- [October \(1\)](#)
- [August \(1\)](#)
- [July \(1\)](#)
- [June \(1\)](#)
- [May \(1\)](#)
- [April \(1\)](#)

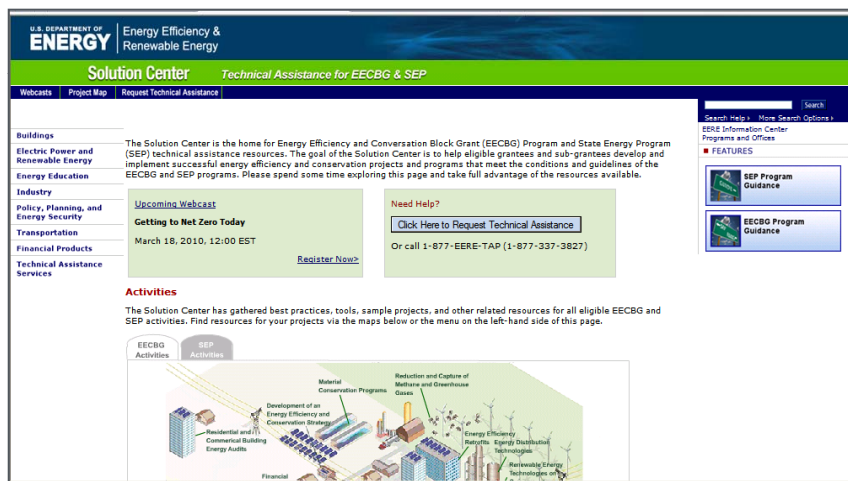
META

- [Sign in](#)

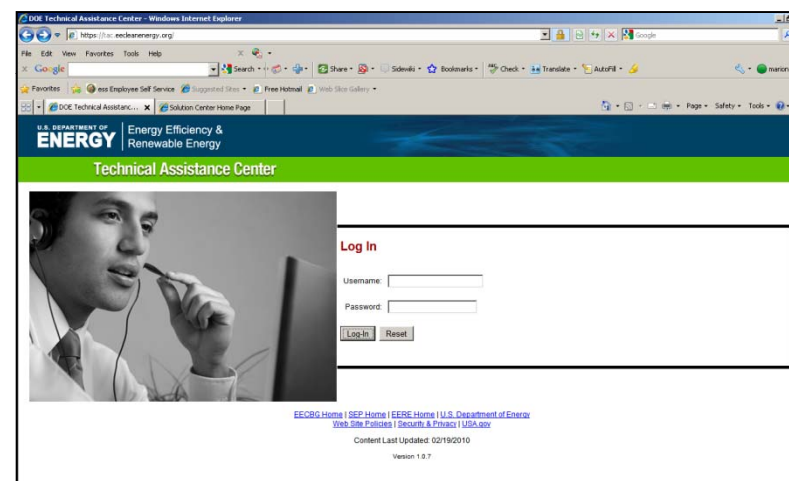
Accessing TAP Resources

We encourage you to:

1) Explore our online resources via the [Solution Center](#)



2) Submit a request via the [Technical Assistance Center](#)



3) Ask questions via our call center at 1-877-337-3827 or email us at solutioncenter@ee.doe.gov

Upcoming Webcasts

Webcast	Date	Time
Exploring Power Purchase Agreements -The Basics Part 1	July 27, 2011	1:00 – 2:30 EST
Introduction to Using Community-Wide Behavior Change Programs to Increase Energy Efficiency – Part 1	July 28, 2011	3:00 – 4:15 EST

For the most up-to-date information and registration links, please visit the Solution Center webcast page at www.wip.energy.gov/solutioncenter/webcasts

- **Introduction:** Jennifer Clymer, ICF International
- **Overview:** Chuck Clinton, NASEO
- **Case Study:** The Honorable Jay Fisette, Member, Arlington County Board, VA
- **Case Study:** Michael Yambrach, Energy Program Manager, Washington, DC
- **Case Study:** Kaci Radcliffe, Sustainability Coordinator, Skagit County, WA
- **Examples from the Field:** Jennifer Clymer
- **Q & A**

Gaining Support from Local Leaders for your Energy Efficiency Goals

Useful and Cost Effective Strategies

Chuck Clinton
NASEO

- Effective Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Initiatives are Consistent with:
 - City or County Charter
 - Statutory Requirements
 - Current Community Needs
 - Current National, Regional, Local Priorities
 - Elected Officials' Platforms
 - Comprehensive Strategic Energy Plans
 - Similar Projects with Proven Success

- Why is Your Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Project Going to Add Value?
 - How many jobs will it create?
 - How much energy will it save?
 - What cost savings will be achieved? To whom?
 - What environmental benefits will accrue?
 - What operational efficiencies will result in either the government or the community?
 - Which segments of your jurisdiction will benefit?

Show Them the Numbers!

- When building support for your project, nothing works better than specific, quantifiable numbers - either results already achieved or projected results
 - “If you can’t count it, you probably didn’t do it.” Tom Downs
 - “However beautiful the strategy, you must show results.” Winston Churchill
 - Know Your Audience: Use different figures/metrics that may work for different individuals
- Consider investing time and/or money into an energy tracking software
 - U.S. EPA’s ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager - FREE
 - Energy services company
 - Utility provided tracking tool
- Talk to other jurisdictions with similar projects
 - Ask them to share their numbers

- Assuming YOU are the project's champion, who else, among those who will benefit from it, will step forward and advocate for it?
 - Who helped conceive of and design the project?
 - Who stands to gain from it?
 - What partners are involved in it?
 - Who have you successfully worked with previously?
 - Who are other unlikely advocates who may be interested?

- How does your project flow from, comport with, carry out your:
 - Existing planning efforts: Comprehensive Strategic Energy Plan, Economic Development Plan, Sustainability Plan, Master Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, etc.
 - Expectations of existing and potential funders
 - Local community needs
 - Local political agendas
 - Economic development opportunities
 - Other ongoing projects
- Indicate these overlaps with written documentation

- When preparing your case, include:
 - Clarity on how project fits in to overall context
 - Value added of what you're doing, in quantifiable format
 - Partners, beneficiaries all clearly identified
 - Resources available/secured as well as potential available
 - Written, back-up documentation assembled
- Now you're ready to garner support of your local leader(s) -- county board members, city council members, etc.

Whose Support Do You Want?

- Know your local political structure
- Who is logical supporter?
 - City/Towns: Mayor, City Council, City Manager, department heads
 - County: Commissioner(s), Board, agency heads
- What other support would be helpful?
 - Regional
 - State level
 - Community groups – citizen, labor, environmental, or faith-based organizations
 - Local utility

- **Steering Committee** – invite prospective leaders to serve on an oversight body
- **Current structures** – get on the agenda for public meetings to build support for your initiative
- **One-on-one meetings with select leaders** – an approach reserved for the most important leaders to support your initiative

- The **ESPC benchmarking fact sheets** on the Solution Center:
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter/buildings/performance_contracting.html (see “Energy Service Company Benchmarking”)
 - Includes cost/square foot, energy savings/square foot, and payback for major and minor HVAC projects, onsite generation, and “other” ESPC projects
- **Rapid Deployment Energy Efficiency Toolkit**, sections 4 & 5:
http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/documents/suca/rdee_toolkit.pdf
 - Includes program participation rates, budget, job creation, energy savings, etc. for residential and non-residential EE program types
- **Community Energy Strategic Planning Guidebook and Toolkit**:
<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter/>
 - Available Fall 2011 on the Solution Center

Gaining Support from Local Leaders for your Energy Efficiency Goals

What They'll Expect

The Honorable Jay Fisette
Arlington County Board

- Energy Manager with technical knowledge
- GHG/Energy Inventory
- GHG reduction plan for Government Facilities, with adopted targets
- Workplan to implement GHG reduction plan

- Elected Officials – Makes policy (legislative role)
- Issue-Area Champion – Promotes and gains buy-in for policy
- County Manager and staff – Carries out policy on a day-to-day basis

- Budget priorities – focus on the 6-year capital budget:
Bond financing vs. PAYGO
- Funding Source:
 - one-time local tax dollars/carryover funds
 - dedicated funding source (Residential Utility Tax)
 - EECBG or other federal, state or private funding

- Does this contribute to meeting adopted GHG reduction targets for County Government?
- Is this integrated with the overall capital reinvestment/maintenance plan?
 - i.e., We don't want to retrofit a building that may be torn down or repurposed in the near future.
- Does this reflect Arlington's goal to "lead by example" – for the private sector and broader community?
- Is this consistent with key "policy directives" as adopted by the County Board?
- What is the ROI?
 - The faster the return the harder for dissention or attempts to cut a project.

- Is there a broader public education value?
- Is there any potential “political/public” downside? Is there any significant opposition?
- Are there any out-year implications/costs?
- Are there any alternative/outside funding sources?
- Is there value to coordinating with another jurisdiction or checking in with the Council of Governments or another regional body? Are we duplicating anything? Are we taking advantage of other available resources?
- Can you measure the results?
- Do you have a communications strategy to share good news?

The Honorable Jay Fisette
Member, Arlington County Board
jfisette@arlingtonva.us

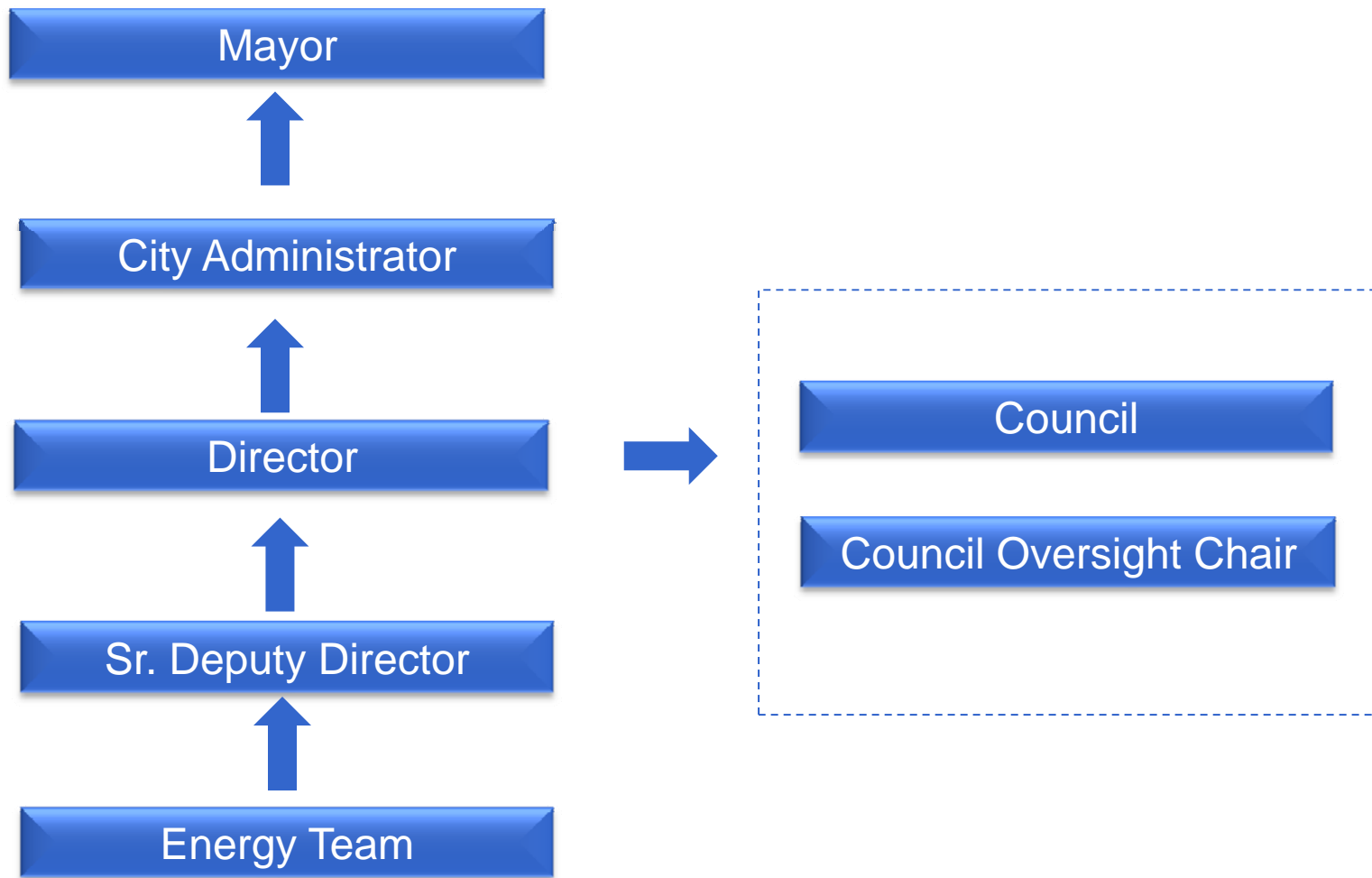
District of Columbia Department of Real Estate Services

Energy Department
July 26, 2011

PRACTICAL
ADAPTABLE
HELPFUL
INTEGRATED
HOLISTIC
SUSTAINABLE
COMPREHENSIVE
PRODUCTIVITY
STATE-OF-THE-
ART
PROFESSIONAL
FORWARD-
THINKING
FUNCTIONAL
FORWARD-
LOOKING
CUSTOMER-
FOCUSED
PERFORMANCE-
ORIENTED
STRONG
CHANGING
INNOVATIVE
FLEXIBLE
APPROACHABLE
GREEN
ORGANIZED
PRODUCTIVE
FOCUSED
FORMAL
SUPPORT
COURT-
TESTED
EXCELLENCE
LIFELONG
WELCOMING
ENERGETIC
MODERN



District Government Organization



Doing More with Less

- Funding is limited during tough economic times
- Nevertheless, District is committed to doing more with less
- Implemented low and no-cost initiatives
- Employee education campaign in partnership with DDOE
- Types of creative funding include:
 - \$1 million annual capital budget
 - \$9.4 federal stimulus funds
 - Next year, up to \$15 million creative financing

Informing Decision Makers

- Informed decision makers make the best decisions
- But decision makers need accurate and reliable data
- Data initiatives include:
 - Energy Cap commodity usage and cost tracking
 - Energy Audits
 - Condition Assessments
 - Energy Star Portfolio Manager
- Preparing to develop the District's first-ever Strategic Energy Plan

Strategic Energy Plan

- Strategic planning is the backbone of effectively implementing energy conservation measures
- Identifies:
 - Cost to implement
 - Potential savings
 - Impact on operating costs
 - Impact on the environment
 - Potential funding sources
 - Recommended timing of implementation
 - Sourcing options
 - Success over time
- Provides decision makers a menu of opportunities

Bottom Line

- Reliable data informs decision makers
- Informed decision makers make the best decisions – especially in tough economic times when funding is scarce
- Strategic Planning is key!

Contact Information

Michael Yambrach
Energy Program Manager
District of Columbia
2000 14th NW
8th Floor
Washington, DC 20009
michael.yambrach@dc.gov
202-671-0729

Sustainable Skagit

Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative

Getting support from local leaders

Communication Efforts

33

- Quarterly Reports
- Presentations
- Emails
- Website
- Partnerships

Quarterly Reports

34



Sustainable Skagit

Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative

2011 Q1
REPORT

Program Goals

The Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative's program goals are derived from Skagit County's Climate Action Plan, approved by the Board of County Commissioners in March 2010 as Resolution R20100095:

- Reduce energy use to 15% below 2008 levels by 2011.
- Reduce garbage collection to 10% below 2008 levels by 2011.
- Reduce utility costs to 10% below 2008 levels by 2011.
- Promote conservation with all staff.
- Conduct resource audits of all major county owned and occupied facilities and implement the recommendations in the resulting Facility Action Plans.
- Avoid unnecessary utility and fuel costs.
- Minimize waste of consumable materials.
- Publicize results of this conservation effort to both staff and the public.

By the Numbers

1,200

Gallons of food waste diverted from landfill through composting at County Commissioners Building since Dec 2010

138,200

Estimated attendance of the 14 Zero-Waste Events

49,400

Pounds of waste recycled and composted at Zero-Waste Events in 2010

\$70,509

Avoided energy costs in 2010 for county facilities (including Q4)

7

Facility Action Plans developed by SCOG's RCM in 2010 to save energy at county facilities

Waste Reduction



We continued in Q1 to implement and advertise our Zero-Waste Events program, which lends waste bins and signage and provides technical advice.

In Q1, we published our "Guide to Hosting a Zero-Waste Event," now available online and on paper for event organizers, and distributed invitation letters to over 100 event organizers and venues. Since its start last year, the ZWE program:

- Diverted 49,400 pounds of waste from the landfill by composting and recycling
- Recognized 14 Zero-Waste Events with an estimated total attendance of 138,000
- Recognized 7 Silver-Level events that offered recycling
- Recognized 7 Gold-Level events that offered recycling and composting, including the Skagit County Fair and Anacortes Arts Festival.



Internally, we are reducing solid waste and increasing recycling and composting at County facilities in the following ways:

- Purchased and deployed employee waste stations (including paper towel and food composting bins) at four buildings.
- Deployed 12 public waste stations at the Courthouse, Admin, and Continental.
- In Q1, we switched from bleached to unbleached paper towels which are now composted in the Continental Building.
- In Q1, we began a trial of GreenPrint, a print reduction software program, in the Continental Building.
- In Q1, the Public Works Solid Waste Division created a new brochure for construction and demolition waste that provides a comprehensive list of recycling locations and tips for green demolition.



Energy Conservation Projects

Performance-Based Contracting: In Q1, McKinstry completed an energy audit of several Skagit County facilities and is finalizing its Energy Services Proposal that recommends improvements that will pay back in 10 years or less.

Small Energy Projects: In Q1, applied for rebates to upgrade the fluorescent lighting in the public defender building. Facilities also installed, as an initial test, an 86-watt LED to replace a 250-watt incandescent lamp in the jail, which is performing well while using 2/3 less electricity.

SCOG Resource Conservation Manager: since 2009, the SCOG RCM program has sent us more than 20 utility reports, audited seven facilities, and created Facility Action Plans for each. In Q1, Skagit County worked with SCOG and the eight other jurisdictions that fund the RCM program to find additional grant funding to support the program through November 2011. Having invested \$10,000 per year in general fund money, for the 2-year period ending December 2010, Skagit County saved \$70,509 and reduced energy utility use by 13%.

Other Accomplishments

New Hire: In February, our Sustainability Coordinator Katie Hampton took a new job as a management fellow in the Tacoma mayor's office. In March, we hired Kaci Radcliffe as our new Sustainability Coordinator. The full-time grant-funded position ends in 2012.

Climate Change Partnership: PDS provided a letter of support for the Swinomish Climate Change Regulatory Enhancement Project to further support regional action towards climate solutions.

Composting: Created zero-waste-themed advertising for the County's Master Composter/Recycler program.



Going Paperless: Superior Court produced its 2009 and 2010 reports only electronically, eliminating over 2,200 printed pages and 500 mailed copies.

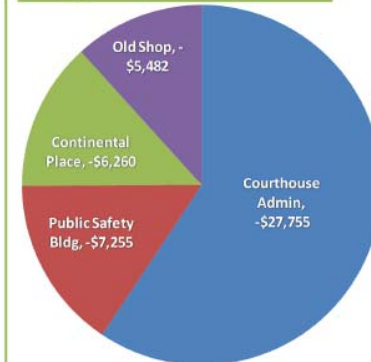
NW Clean Air Grant: In Q1 we obtained \$17,450 to update our regional greenhouse gas inventory to more accurately reflect large industrial emission sources.

WA Department of Commerce Grant: In Q1 we obtained \$19,000 to fund the SCOG RCM program's exploration of whether and how to continue the program after its 3-year term ends in November.

Coming Next Quarter

- New outdoor recycling for county parks
- Paperless policy
- Finalize Energy Savings Performance-Based Contract and begin facilities work
- Centralized sustainable purchasing program
- Prosecutor's Office paperless discovery
- Sustainable Skagit Home Recognition Program

Energy Reduction Top Performers



SCOG RCM program 2010 year-end analysis

Transportation

Vehicle Fleet Management: In Q1, we completed our third-party fleet review and the Board approved a revised vehicle purchasing policy to streamline vehicle purchasing while ensuring high fuel economy standards.



No Idle: continued deployment of "no-idle" signage and other promotional materials provided by NW Clean Air Agency. In Q2, we'll finish deploying signs at remaining facilities.

For More Info

www.skagitcounty.net/sustainability
Sustainability Administrator Ryan Walters
Sustainability Coordinator Kaci Radcliffe

Presentations

Program Goals

- Reduce energy use to 15% below 2008 levels by 2011.
- Reduce garbage collection to 10% below 2008 levels by 2011.
- Reduce utility costs to 10% below 2008 levels by 2011.
- Promote conservation with all staff.
- Conduct resource audits of all major county owned and occupied facilities and implement the recommendations in the resulting Facility Action Plans.
- Avoid unnecessary utility and fuel costs.
- Minimize waste of consumable materials.
- Publicize results of this conservation effort to both staff and the public.



Waste Reduction



12
Public waste stations installed in lobbies and public areas at three County facilities



13
2010: waste stations installed in office areas of four County buildings



SCOG RCM Program

\$70,509

Avoided energy costs in 2010 for county facilities (including Q4)

53%

County facilities decreased electricity use from 2009 to 2010.

63%

County facilities decreased use of natural gas from 2009 to 2010.

2010 Outstanding BTU Reduction in Energy Usage by a **Single** Facility



Skagit County Courthouse Complex

Reduction of 1,524 Million BTUs

Ross Bailey

Facility Operations Supervisor

Emails

36

Actions

To All Staff,
Help us conserve energy and save money -



Don't forget to **TURN OFF** your computers, monitors, and other equipment before you leave **each day**.

Have a great weekend!



Program Info



Sustainable Skagit
Climate & Sustainability Initiative

June 1, 2011

Earth Day Challenge Update

What is the Challenge?

We are competing with five jurisdictions to reduce our use of energy by at least **5%** from May-August.



How are we doing so far?

We have had several departments and staff take important measures to help reduce their energy use! This has included wearing layers instead of using extra heating/cooling energy, turning off lights in unused offices, and turning off computers at the end of every workday. Thank you to everyone for their efforts and keep up the great work!

Are you an Energy Steward?

If so, please send us your accomplishments and stories to share!

How you can help us win the Challenge?

- Turn off lights when you leave a room and don't need them.
- Turn off your computer and all other office equipment at the end of **every** day.
- Leave the thermostat set points in place and dress in layers.
- Lower the shades on hot days to keep the inside office temperature comfortable.
- **Other suggestions?** Email us and share your ideas!

Questions or comments?

Kaci Radcliffe
Sustainability Coordinator
kacir@co.skagit.wa.us or x7607
www.skagitcounty.net/sustainability

Sustainable Skagit
www.skagitcounty.net/sustainability

May 19, 2011

Bike to Work!

Tomorrow, May 20th is National Bike to Work Day!

Why ride?

- Reduce pollution and traffic congestion
- It's fun and it will leave you feeling alert and energized
- Slow the wear and tear on roads, bridges, and your own vehicle
- Use less or no fuel, which saves you money and our community's



Help us celebrate by riding your bike **tomorrow!** (And email us to let us know you did.)

Don't forget! May and June are Bike and Ride to Work months. So, start off your summer by ditching the car and taking a ride!

Questions or comments?

Kaci Radcliffe, Sustainability Coordinator
kacir@co.skagit.wa.us or x7607
www.skagitcounty.net/sustainability

Weekly Updates



Sustainable Skagit
Climate Action and Sustainability Initiative

April 22, 2011

Earth Day

Started in 1970, Earth Day was created to inspire awareness and appreciation of our natural environment. Protection of our land and water resources and increasing community collaboration are one of the many aspects we can celebrate today. **Here are some fun ways to celebrate:**



- Take your family on a hike or nature walk
- Turn your thermostat down and turn off unused lights
- Fix any leaking faucets, oil leaks or flat tires, and remember to recycle
- Donate to a charity that focuses on the natural environment

Energy Challenge

The Skagit Council of Government's (SCOG) Resource Conservation Manager (RCM), in a spirit of friendly competition recently issued a 'challenge' to nine local jurisdictions, including Skagit County, to be **Good Energy Stewards** in honor of Earth Day. The BOCC has adopted a resolution accepting this challenge!

What is the Challenge?

To reduce our use of energy for daily facility operations by at least **5%** from May-August. The top performing jurisdiction will be awarded and Skagit County will recognize the staff and departments who have taken an active role in this challenge.



How you can help us win the Challenge?

- Turn off lights when you leave a room or don't need them.
- Turn off computer and equipment at the end of the day.
- Respect the thermostat set points and dress in layers.

Awards for Skagit County

On April 21st Skagit County received two energy conservation awards, issued by the RCM Program:

Outstanding Reduction in Energy Use by a Facility
Skagit County Courthouse Complex
1,524 MBtu reduction in 2010

Outstanding Reduction in Energy Usage by Facilities of a Department Within One Jurisdiction
Skagit County Parks
6 facilities, each with 10 reductions or more, collectively reduced 570 MBtu in 2010

We'd like to recognize Brian Adams and Ross Bailey for their efforts and work in these facilities!

HAPPY FRIDAY!

Don't forget to **TURN OFF** your computers, monitors, and other equipment before you leave!



HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

Questions or Comments?

kacir@co.skagit.wa.us
x7607

Website

SustainableSkagit

Climate Action & Sustainability Initiative



[Address and Contact](#)

Skagit County Climate Change and Sustainability Initiative

Skagit County is committed to reducing and **mitigating** our operational and regional greenhouse gas emissions and **adapting** to the effects of our changing climate. On June 24, 2008, the Skagit County Commissioners approved [Resolution R20080304](#), setting in motion a broad-ranging initiative to address climate change, reduce resource consumption, and create a **Sustainable Skagit**.

Program Updates

- [2010 Quarter 4 Update](#)
- [2011 Quarter 1 Update](#)
- [2011 Quarter 1 Presentation](#)

Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Energy Efficiency

Skagit County is reducing energy consumption by remodeling our existing structures and office buildings, and addressing daily operations. We're wisely investing the funds allocated to us as part of the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant](#) program, and proposing to help residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Visit our [Energy Efficiency webpage](#) for more information.



Fuel Efficiency

We believe leading by example is one of the best ways to achieve community-wide change. That's why Skagit County has self-imposed strict fuel economy standards on new vehicle purchases and why we've invested in hybrid cars for our regular vehicle fleet and all-electric vehicles for maintenance and mail delivery. Visit our [Fuel Efficiency webpage](#) for more information.



Waste Reduction

Because greenhouse gas emissions are associated with the production of every item we buy, and prevented by recycling or reusing the item, Skagit County is promoting the "reduce, reuse, recycle" mantra through several effective programs. Visit our [Zero Waste Events](#) and [Waste Reduction](#) webpages for more information.



Natural Yard Care

Yards are spaces for individuals and families to relax and have fun. Natural Yard Care practices can save you money, create healthier spaces for you and your family, and protect the environment. Visit our [Natural Yard Care webpage](#) for more information.



Climate Action & Sustainability Taskforce

On June 24, 2008, the Skagit County Commissioners approved a resolution launching our sustainability initiative and creating a citizen taskforce to advise county government on policies, programs, and regulations needed to achieve those goals. Visit our [Climate Action & Sustainability Taskforce](#) webpage for more information.



Planning and Preparing for Climate Change

Swinomish Climate Change Initiative

Along with the Town of La Conner, the community of Shelter Bay, and the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, Skagit County is participating in the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's study of a wide range of potential climate change impacts to the Swinomish reservation, including sea level rise and impacts to upland communities and forest lands. Visit the [Swinomish Climate Change Initiative](#) webpage for more information.



Envision 2050

(Formerly Alternative Futures) The Envision 2050 project seeks to develop and implement a broadly-supported, 50-year plan to protect the Skagit and Samish River watersheds' many environmental values, maintain our highly productive natural resource industries, and accommodate population growth in livable, walkable, and economically vibrant communities. Visit the [Envision 2050](#) webpage for more information.



More Information

Want the latest news about sustainability programs, projects, events, rebate offers, and ways you can get involved? [Sign up for e-mail updates](#) / [Find us on Facebook](#).

Why Sustainability?

sus-tain-a-bil-i-ty

noun: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



To Conserve Our Natural Resources

Reduced consumption of paper, plastics, and other products means reduced waste, reduced expense, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Skagit County's sustainability program also prepares our county for the reduced future availability and higher prices of fossil fuels.

To Save Tax Payers Dollars

Electricity, fuel, paper, and postage are expensive, and less resource-intensive options are available at lower net cost. When fully-implemented, the interim energy and resource reduction measures listed in the Climate Action Resolution will save the county several hundred thousand dollars each year.

As [this chart](#) (excerpted from this [McKinsey & Co](#) report) illustrates, many greenhouse gas-reduction strategies save money, and all of them together net out to near-zero financial cost and significant positive benefits to the climate. For example, [Virginia's Arlington County](#) saved \$8,000 in just four months after replacing all 2,500 light fixtures in its courthouse.

As another example, consider vehicle purchases. New county policy now prohibits departments from purchasing passenger cars or SUVs that get [EPA 2008 highway fuel economy ratings of less than 34 mpg](#), nor pickup trucks with less than 24 mpg. At average 2008 fuel prices, that small increase in mileage might save \$1500 or more over three years. ([Click to enlarge chart](#))

To Prepare for Climate Impacts

Climate change threatens to dramatically change our weather, our coastline, and our natural resource industries. A long-term goal of Skagit County's sustainability program is to project and prepare for the impacts of climate change and to mitigate our own contribution of greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information on the potential impacts of climate change on our county, please read the [Skagit Valley Herald's eight-part series on climate change](#) and the [Skagit Valley](#) or visit the [Washington State Department of Ecology's climate change website](#).

ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Skagit County received a formula allocation of \$495,100 through the federal Department of Energy from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and waste reduction initiatives. Consistent with the Administration's recovery act transparency goals, Skagit County is making an unprecedented amount of information about our grant expenditures available on the web.

Activities	Federal Funds
Sustainability Office	\$296,258
Small Conservation Projects	\$16,130
Event Recycling & Bin Lending Program	\$36,000
Public Facilities Recycling Bins	\$39,500
Supplemental Funding for SCOG RCM Program	\$50,000
Vehicle Fleet Review	\$14,557
Sustainable Skagit Home Certification Program	\$31,355
Climate Stewards	\$11,300
Total Allocation	\$495,100



Grant Updates

June 30, 2011
Total Spent - \$291,814

Quarterly Expenditures

Expenditures	2011 Q1	2011 Q1 2
Sustainability Office		
Equipment and Supplies	\$45,21	\$479,30
Salaries and Benefits	\$21,909.48	\$28,412.49
Subtotal	\$21,954.69	\$28,891.79
Energy Conservation Projects		
Equipment and Supplies	\$81.15	\$2,499.42
Subtotal	\$81.15	\$2,499.42
Event recycling and zero-waste program		
Equipment and Supplies	\$11.05	\$41.16
Zero Waste Events Coordinator	\$1,485.00	\$1,045.00
Subtotal	\$1,496.05	\$1,086.16
Recycling for county public facilities		
Equipment and Supplies	\$14,417.19	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$14,417.19	\$0.00
Support for SCOG RCM program		
Resource Conservation Manager & Assistant	\$9,208.74	\$18,339.59
Subtotal	\$9,208.74	\$18,339.59
Vehicle Fleet Program		
Equipment and Supplies	\$0.00	\$486.90
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$486.90
Sustainable Skagit Home Certification Program		
Equipment and Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Assessments	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.00
Climate and Energy Education and Outreach		
Climate Stewards Program	\$6,806.69	\$3,441.84
Subtotal	\$6,806.69	\$3,441.84
Total Expenditures	\$53,864.51	\$54,745.70

Partnerships

38

- Community
 - ▣ Task force for Climate Action Plan
 - ▣ Zero-waste program at community events
- Jurisdictional
 - ▣ Skagit Council of Governments Shared-RCM program
 - ▣ Participation of local tribes in zero-waste programs
 - ▣ Participant in ICLEI and DOE calls, regional partner meetings
- Non-Profit/Education
 - ▣ Residential efficiency program with regional non-profits
 - ▣ Climate education program with estuary center and universities
- Business
 - ▣ Residential program with utility companies, partnering on outreach events
 - ▣ Purchases from local businesses

Contact Info

39

Kaci Radcliffe
Sustainability Coordinator
Skagit County

(360) 419-7607
kacir@co.skagit.wa.us

www.skagitcounty.net/sustainability

Gaining Support from Local Leaders for your Energy Efficiency Goals

Examples from the Field

Jennifer Clymer
ICF International

- Hired the city's first Sustainability Director in 2007. Director created a sustainability team composed of department directors.
- The position started as a two year pilot project with the stipulation that the position create sufficient cost savings to cover his salary.
- Sustainability Director continues to demonstrate the cost savings of energy efficiency projects to justify additional positions.

- Demonstrated the value of the California Youth Energy Services (CYES) program to local leadership while reaffirming the program's importance to participating youth.
- The program involves training local youth to perform home energy audits and small scale retrofits.
- Participating youth were individually recognized at a City Council meeting.
- The event gave the city a fun/unique way to share the benefits of the program directly with the City Council.

- Held public lighting ceremony of the retrofitted Reno Arch to build public interest in broader energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative.
- Prepares a progress report for City Council every 6 months.
 - Report includes energy, cost, and CO₂ savings and renewable energy generated from completed projects
- Provides similar presentation to City Council, service organizations and citizen advisory boards twice a year.
- Shares project successes via YouTube and local access TV.
- Receives full City Council participation at solar/wind demonstration project ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

- Created 21-Member Sustainability Commission with diverse set of local leaders.
- Developed Sustainability Plan setting goals and acknowledging tie-ins with other priorities and plan.
- Other city planning efforts now expected to be consistent with Sustainability Plan goals.
- The energy office prepares a pro forma financial analysis on proposed projects to show cost-effectiveness and payback.
- Agency heads meet every 2 weeks with the mayor's office to discuss initiatives and investments in new projects.

- Other grantee experiences
 - Have you had success gaining support of local leaders?
 - Have you faced any barriers gaining their support?
- Please participate in the Q&A session by:
 - Typing your question into the Q&A box or
 - Raising your virtual hand and we can unmute you to share your comment or question with the group

Thank You!

Chuck Clinton
NASEO

cclinton@naseo.org

Jennifer Clymer
ICF International

jclymer@icfi.com