

(1) National Database of Energy Efficiency Policies and Incentives

The primary objective of the *National Database of Energy Efficiency Policies & Incentives* project is to provide a single online source of information on all available government and utility incentive programs and policies that promote increased efficiency the building sector, with a focus on K-12 schools, universities & colleges, state & local government buildings, commercial buildings, multi-family residential, and public housing. This technical assistance tool is designed to support Rebuild America partnerships and related stakeholders nationwide in their efforts to (1) help building owners overcome financial barriers of implementing energy efficiency/green building projects and practices; and (2) develop effective rules, regulations, and other policies to encourage energy efficiency projects and green building practices.

Total project cost:

Funding request:

Project Lead: North Carolina State University (NC Solar Center)

Project Participants: Washington State University; Texas State Energy Conservation Office;

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; North American Insulation Manufacturers Association

Start Date:

End Date:

Presentations/Publications

None.

Patents

None.

Progress in Past Quarter and Current Status

Activities performed during the reporting period are as follows:

Task 1: Add Energy Efficiency Incentive & Policy Modules to DSIRE.

Activity A – Research and incorporate state government policies into DSIRE (3rd Q 2006).

Research on state policies related to appliance standards, building energy codes, public benefits funds for energy efficiency, and energy efficiency standards for public buildings has been completed and program summaries are now live on the DSIRE Website. Project partners submitted information on their respective state policies and the information has been incorporated into DSIRE. This includes 52 building energy codes comprising all 50 states, plus The District of Columbia and Guam; 11 State Appliance Efficiency Standards; 27 energy standards for public buildings; and 17 public benefits funds for energy efficiency. See Table 1 at the end of this report for a summary table of regulatory policies promoting energy efficiency. This task is complete.

Policies summaries may be accessed by going to

<http://www.dsireusa.org/searchby/searchtype.cfm?&CurrentPageID=2&EE=1&RE=0> and

selecting the policy of interest from the drop-down menu.

Amy Wheelless, a DSIRE research assistant, attended the NASEO meeting in Seattle (September 10-13) to gather information about current and upcoming energy efficiency initiatives and to make contact with state energy officials.

Activity B – Research and incorporate utility efficiency incentives into DSIRE (4th Q 2006).

Investor-owned utility energy efficiency incentive programs were added during the previous reporting period. This quarter, 259 municipal utility programs and 166 electric cooperative programs were added and are now live on the DSIRE Website. Our project partner, Washington State University Energy Program assisted in this effort as outlined in their cost-share commitment letter. See Table 2 at end of this report for a summary table of federal, state, and utility financial incentives for energy efficiency.

Utility incentive summaries may be accessed by going to <http://www.dsireusa.org/searchby/searchimplementing.cfm?&CurrentPageID=2&EE=1&RE=0> and selecting “Utility” from the drop-down menu.

Activity C – Research and incorporate federal incentives & policies into DSIRE (2nd Q 2006).
This task was completed during the first quarter.

Activity D – Research and incorporate local incentives & policies into DSIRE (2nd Q 2007).
No activities to report.

Task 2: Enhance DSIRE Website to Incorporate Energy Efficiency Elements.

- The “Frequently Asked Questions” section of the website was enhanced to describe the types of energy efficiency policy and incentive information now available on DSIRE.
- The interactive [summary table](#) of financial incentives for energy efficiency was enhanced to show utility and federal incentives in addition to state incentives.
- The “Search By” function was expanded to include the new energy efficiency regulatory policies and utility energy efficiency incentives.

Task 3: Update and Enhance All Energy Efficiency Policies & Incentives Modules.

No activities to report.

Task 4: Develop and Disseminate Project Information.

No activities to report.

Project Concerns.

N/A. The addition of the energy efficiency content for the new database is on schedule.

Plans for Next Quarter:

- Develop and distribute project flyer at the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and Solar America Initiative Annual Meeting on October 16 and at the October 16-19 Solar Electric Power Association Conference in San Jose, California.
- Write article about energy efficiency incentives database for the annual *IREC Connections* publication for distribution at the meetings above and for the IREC Website.
- Develop and distribute press release on the availability of completed federal, state, and utility modules of the database.
- Create an interactive summary table of energy efficiency rules, regulations and policies for the DSIRE Website.
- Add printable energy efficiency incentive and policy summary tables in MS Word to the DSIRE site.
- Make additional changes to text and functionality for new energy efficiency features.

- Update state financial incentives module.