

(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).

This task was complete during the 3rd quarter, 2006.

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.

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

This task was primarily completed during the 3rd quarter, 2006. DSIRE presently maintains records for 660 utility incentives, with some utilities having multiple programs.

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 1st quarter, 2006.

Activity D – Research and incorporate local incentives & policies into DSIRE (2nd Q 2007).

Added/enhanced nine local government programs for energy efficiency in DSIRE. Project partners have begun to investigate other local programs within their respective states to highlight in DSIRE.

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

The interactive [summary table](#) of financial incentives for energy efficiency was enhanced during the 3rd quarter, 2006 to show utility and federal incentives in addition to state incentives. The [summary table](#) of energy efficiency regulations and policies, as well as printable versions of both summary tables, were added to DSIRE during the 4th quarter of 2006.

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

DSIRE staff verified and updated information on state financial energy efficiency incentives collected as part of its 2005 DSIRE contract with IREC. The process of review also resulted in 14 new energy efficiency programs being added to DSIRE. See Table 1 at the end of this report for a list of the new programs which were added.

Task 4: Develop and Disseminate Project Information.

The 2006 Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) Annual Report included a one page announcement of the energy efficiency incentives and policies added to DSIRE, which can be found at the end of this report. A DSIRE flyer has also been developed and was distributed at the Interstate Renewable Energy Council and Solar America Initiative Annual Meeting on October 16 in San Jose, California. It was also distributed at the October 16-19 Solar Electric Power Association Conference in San Jose, California. The flyer announces the new Website name and the new energy efficiency policies and incentives that are now covered by DSIRE. See attached. An email based on this flyer was distributed to State Energy Officials in every state.

Project Concerns.

We were informed by our project partner at WSU that budget constraints have limited the amount of cost share they can provide from \$24,000 over the life of the project to \$17,000: \$8,000 in 2006, \$6,500 in 2007 and \$2,500 in 2008. That leaves the project \$7,000 short. We are currently investigating other sources for this missing portion of the cost share. We will contact NASEO to discuss this shortfall.

Plans for Next Quarter:

- Brian Lips will attend the 2007 National Association of Energy Officials (NASEO) Winter Conference in Washington, DC on February 11 – 13 to gather information about upcoming energy efficiency initiatives and to further distribute the DSIRE flyer.
- Send an email announcement describing the recent DSIRE enhancements to energy efficiency advocacy and trade groups.
- Continue researching local programs for energy efficiency.
- Update state policy module.

Table 1: New State Energy Efficiency Programs Added to DSIRE in Q4, 2006

| State | Program Name | Incentive Type |
|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| Delaware | Delaware Energy Answers for Home Appliances | State Grant Program |
| Delaware | Delaware Energy Answers for Business | State Grant Program |
| District of Columbia | Residential Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program | State Rebate Program |
| Illinois | Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Program (MEEP) | State Rebate Program |
| Illinois | Green Business Building Pilot Program | State Grant Program |
| Maine | Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) | State Loan Program |
| Maryland | Local Option - Property Tax Exemption for High Performance Buildings | Property Tax Exemption |
| Minnesota | MHFA Rental Rehabilitation Loan Program | State Loan Program |
| New Jersey | New Jersey SmartStart Buildings | State Rebate Program |
| New York | NYSERDA - EmPower New York | State Grant Program |
| Vermont | Efficiency Vermont - Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Programs | State Rebate Program |
| Virginia | Technical Assistance Grant Program | State Grant Program |
| Virginia | Lease Financing Program for Energy Efficiency | State Loan Program |
| Wyoming | Small Business Energy Audit Program | State Grant Program |