

### **(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

Brian Lips gave a presentation in Atlanta for the annual meeting of the Association of Energy Engineers during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2007. The talk primarily focused on incentives and policies for solar energy, but a considerable amount of time was spent promoting all aspects of the DSIRE website and informing the audience about the addition of energy efficiency policies and incentives to the database.

#### Patents

None.

#### Progress in Past Quarter & 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2006).*

This task was complete during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2006. However, 3 new programs emerged and were added to DSIRE during this past quarter. DSIRE currently maintains records for 129 state policies for energy efficiency.

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 (4<sup>th</sup> Q 2006).*

This task was primarily completed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2006. However, 43 new utility programs have been added to DSIRE during this past quarter. Some programs were added at the request of utilities which found their programs to be missing, and others were discovered during the course of updating as required by Task 3. DSIRE presently maintains records for 776 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2006).*

This task was completed during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2006. Federal incentive summaries may be accessed by going to <http://www.dsireusa.org/searchby/searchimplementing.cfm?&CurrentPageID=2&EE=1&RE=0> and selecting “Federal” from the drop-down menu.

*Activity D – Research and incorporate local incentives & policies into DSIRE (2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2007).*

This task was primarily completed during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2007. DSIRE staff added/enhance 3 more policies/incentives during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2007. DSIRE currently maintains records for 45 local policies/incentives for energy efficiency

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

The interactive [summary table](#) of financial incentives for energy efficiency was enhanced during the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2006. DSIRE was further enhanced during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2007 to make the printable versions of both summary tables update automatically in real-time.

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

The State Policy Module was updated primarily during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2007.

The State Financial Module was updated during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2007

The Federal Module was updated during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2007.

The Utility Module was updated during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2007, with 340 updates and 387 updates respectively.

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.

#### Task 4: Develop and Disseminate Project Information.

Brian Lips and other Solar Center staff attended the July 2007 ASES conference in Cleveland. The DSIRE promotional flyer was available at the Solar Center's table at the expo. Brian also sat at the table and explained the DSIRE project and distributed the promotional flyer to numerous attendees.

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The Solar Center had a booth at the GreenNC Trade Show in Raleigh, NC on September 6, 2007. The DSIRE flyer was on display for attendees to take from the booth throughout the day.

#### *Project Concerns.*

We were informed during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2006 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 still investigating other sources for this missing portion of the cost share.

#### Plans for Next Quarter:

- An updated flyer for DSIRE was prepared during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2007 and will be distributed at upcoming conferences. It will also be sent electronically to all the state energy officials DSIRE staff has contact with during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2007.
- Continue updating the state financial module