



Energy Independent Communities: 25x25 Plan Grants Pilot Presentations 3rd Quarter Report

Steve Sobiek
City of Columbus
Eau Claire, WI
September 23, 2009



Overview

- **Energy Independence Team Members**
 - Reasons for including certain members
 - Team Meetings
- **Challenges/Opportunities**
 - Obstacles to share for future Energy Independence Teams
 - Beneficial information that has been gathered
- **Potential Projects**
 - Targets for funding (i.e. EECBG & others)
- **Renewable Energy Sources & Feedstocks**
 - Wind, solar, biogas, biomass, hydro, other





Greater Columbus Energy Task Force

Members

- Nancy Osterhaus, former Mayor - Chair
- Bob Link, Mayor
- John Andler, Superintendent, Columbus Water & Light
- Martin Day, Community Member
- Rob Goebel, Plant Manger, American Packaging Corp
- Curt Hansen, President, Mid State Equipment
- Ed Harding, President, Columbus Community Hospital
- Mark Jansen, Superintendent, Columbus School District
- Al Strohschein, Chair, CWL Commmision
- **Advisors: Steve Sobiek and Jim Schieble, CWL Energy Rep**



Member selection reflects broad cross section of the community.

Team Meetings always held Third Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm

Upcoming Meetings: October 21, November 18, December 16





Greater Columbus Energy Task Force

Challenges:

- Fuel/Fleet Data was difficult to obtain with inaccuracies between invoicing departments and individual departments. Quantifying bio fuel sources, e.g., leaf/yard refuse.
- Resistance to change and embrace alternative fuel (e.g., E-85) and energy efficiencies from department heads and staff, particularly Police Department
- Difficulty in getting Columbia County, fuel source vendor, to provide alternative fuel (e.g. E-85)
- Funding Sources, Budget restraints, e.g., levy limit caps

Opportunities:

- Baseline energy data allows the City and City departments opportunities to better manage energy and fleet costs and save taxpayer dollars.
- Projects identified allow for both immediate and long range energy and cost savings
- The entire EI Project is **educating** the entire City of Columbus and residents on energy efficiency and alternative renewable energy.



Greater Columbus Energy Task Force

Identified Projects:

- LED Street Light Conversion – EECBG
- Municipal Parking Lot Projects-LED lights, Electric Plug-ins
- Library Lighting Efficiency Project
- Public Works Lighting Efficiency Project
- New Police Building Lighting Efficiency Project
- Solar PHV Project to be identified this year



Potential Projects:

- Wastewater Treatment Plant efficiencies, including bio-fuel energy generation/consolidation with Neighboring Fall River
- Aquatic Center electric savings, including pool covers/solar



Greater Columbus Energy Task Force

Renewable Energy Sources & Feedstocks

- **Solar Project to be identified**
- **Biogas: Yet to be identified**
- **Biomass:**
 1. Leaf/Yard Refuse from Columbus and neighboring communities
 2. Food waste from Columbus Schools
 3. Harvested weeds from Lazy Lake
- **Hydro: Udey Dam hydro-electric generation**
- **Other: Increasing City of Columbus Purchases of Green renewable Power from current 16 percent to 25-38 percent**
- **Wind not an option at this point**



Greater Columbus Energy Task Force

Additional Comments, Observations, Recommendations

- The process has offered Columbus an opportunity for leadership, innovation, and education, as well as opportunities for energy efficiencies and conservation.
- There hasn't been a road map to follow.
- Do Not be afraid to think bold, propose new ideas, and challenge outdated methods and operations.

Steve Sobiek, Director
Office of Economic Development/Energy Sustainability
City of Columbus
105 N. Dickason Blvd, Columbus, WI 53925
920.623.5900
ssobiek@columbuswi.us
cityofcolumbus

