



Energy Independent Communities Grant Recipients

First Quarter Survey Results

Establishing the Energy Independence Planning Process

Presented at the Renewable Energy Summit

Midwest Express Center

Milwaukee, WI

March 26, 2009

Summary

The Office of Energy Independence (OEI) awarded ten grants to 23 local units of government and tribes to prepare a plan that would start moving them toward a goal of meeting 25% of their energy needs from renewable energy sources by the year 2025 (known as 25x25). Wisconsin communities do not have much experience with this type of energy planning, so these ten initiatives are truly pilot projects. OEI has contracted with the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) to evaluate the lessons learned from these ten pilot planning programs. The evaluation will occur throughout the planning process and will conclude with a report after the plans have been completed at the end of 2009. LGI's evaluation program consists of the following elements:

- Facilitate four quarterly meetings of the pilot communities. This will be an opportunity to share experiences and learn how the pilots are working through their respective planning processes.
- Conduct quarterly surveys of the pilots to identify issues, opportunities, challenges and observations as each community works through their planning process.
- Conduct two surveys of non-participant local units of government
- Maintain a web-based group for the pilots to serve as a central location for information about evaluation of the pilots and to serve as a place for discussion.
- Prepare a report of lessons learned and a template to guide future energy independence planning initiatives.

It is important to note that the evaluation being conducted by LGI is a planning evaluation and not a technical evaluation of conservation, efficiency or renewable issues. Our purpose is to understand the issues a local unit of government must contend with to organize and implement an energy independence planning process. As such, our evaluation will involve such issues as defining a process, dealing with information, staff/volunteer resources & capacity, interacting with technical resource providers, involving stakeholders and the broader community, setting goals & priorities and reaching decisions about which projects to implement.

The first survey was completed on March 24, 2009. All ten pilot programs had at least one person respond to the ten survey questions. A summary of the responses follows. Full responses were provided to each of the pilot programs.

About the Local Government Institute

The LGI was organized in October 2007 by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns Association and the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities. Its purpose is to, through research, education and collaboration, find solutions for the efficient delivery and funding of local government services. Visit us at www.localgovinstitute.org.

EIC Survey #1 Summary of Responses

Q #	Question	Responses
1	What are the top goals that will be driving your energy independence planning process?	
	Decreasing the use of fossil fuels in vehicles/alternative fuels	7
	Communication/Education/Student involvement	6
	Increasing energy efficiency and conservation within municipal buildings and infrastructure	4
	Pursue opportunities for local production and generation of renewable energy	3
	Sustainability Procedures and Practices/reduce carbon footprint	3
	25% renewable energy for fuels and electricity by 2025	3
	Short- and long-term cost savings	2
	Alternative Energy for Buildings	1
	Enhancement of community reputation as a regional leader in 'green' energy initiatives	1
	Energy independence	1
	Improve standard of living	1
	Establish a model for other rural or isolated communities to pursue energy independence	1
	Policy changes for building construction and remodeling	1
	Infrastructure modifications	1
	Encourage local food production	1
	Connect conservation/sustainability with economic development	1
2	What do you foresee as the biggest obstacle in formulating your plan?	
	Funding projects and strategies that accomplish energy goals	4
	Sorting through information to make informed decisions within the timeframe	3
	Staff resources to develop/implement plans, secure funding and complete reporting requirements	2
	Involving stakeholders/Collaborating with regional partners and logistics of involving large numbers of people	2
	Focusing on projects that will best achieve the goals	1
	On going tasks and responsibilities competing for the time and resources required to adequately research and plan	1
	Resistance to change	1
	Addressing issues associated with bio-diesel	1
3	Who do you view as stakeholders in the planning process, and how will they be involved in formulating the plan?	
	Local government/tribal officials	7
	Residents	6
	Educational institutions	5
	Local government/tribal employees	4
	Department heads/Committee members	4
	Business & industry	3
	Non-profits & community groups	2
	Surrounding communities	1

Involve stakeholders through :	
Communication & education program	3
Soliciting ideas/suggestions at public events, meetings	2
Involvement on EI Team	1
Forums	1
Joint Board meetings	1
4 What benefits do you expect to realize as a result of the process to prepare your energy plan?	
Increased knowledge and acceptance of energy efficiency/renewable/sustainability by municipal officials and residents	5
Uniformity and accuracy in fuel & energy consumption reporting/On-going use of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager	4
Reduce fossil fuel usage by greater than 25% by 2025	4
Save taxpayer dollars	3
Long term plan for energy efficiency/Identification of specific projects to include in operating or capital budgets	2
Opportunity to build new partnerships with other tribes, municipalities, the state and federal government including purchasing, education, project expansion and implementation	2
Sustainable opportunities for economic development, energy independence, environmental improvement, and improved social conditions	2
Changed mindset that includes sustainable considerations in every aspect of local government operations	1
Knowledge in energy and fuel technologies	1
Establishment by stakeholders/partners of an 'energy bank' consisting of the money saved from energy conservation/efficiencies/use of renewable energy sources	1
Impact student's future energy usage	1
Reduce community's contribution to global warming	1
5 How do you expect this grant will affect the broader community's sustainability and energy independence efforts?	
Create enthusiasm and support for projects within the community/private sector	9
Technical knowledge, and knowledge of opportunities and options	3
Provide focus for a long term plan	1
Increase/improve "green" reputation	1
Promote joint purchasing of renewable energy equipment	1
Development of certification programs for renewable energy technology	1
Expansion of AFS Green Team Network of Early Adopters	1
Leadership development among elected officials and some staff	1
6 The EIC grant program is making significant planning and technical resources available to you to assist in your energy planning efforts. Are there additional resources you expect could be helpful and if so, what would they be?	
None, resources seem adequate	5
Not sure what technical resources are being made available	2
Coordination and knowledge of planning for alternative fuel infrastructure and supply systems	1
Knowledge of data collection needs at start of process	1

Expert in renewable energy present alternatives to the EI Team	1
Technical educational resources focusing on local needs and funding	1
The National Biodiesel Board starting cold flow Consortium	1
7 What information would you like to learn from the other participants in the EIC grant program?	
Other approaches to solving similar problems	6
Challenges and how they are being addressed	3
Planning processes utilized	2
Data sources	1
Plans with different technologies	1
Areas for improvement that we may not have considered	1
Community/school education & outreach methods	1
How alternative methods/technologies are being evaluated	1
Database of projects and funding sources	1
How to run bio-diesel in cold weather	1
8 As you are starting the energy planning process, in what areas (organizationally, structurally, technically, etc.) do you feel the least prepared to begin planning for your energy independence? Please describe.	
In-house technical expertise in alternative energy and fuel technologies	4
Data collection and analysis	2
Communication between state and local partners	2
Cash flow to handle reimbursement structure	1
Energy provider not part of Focus means greater costs	1
Staff resources to champion the effort	1
Knowing how to utilize the resources available to us	1
Technology of blending bio-fuels	1
Fleet efficiency methods	1
9 At the conclusion of the planning process what skills and insights would you like to have obtained to prepare yourself to implement your plan?	
Energy evaluation/modeling capability	3
Plan of action for each selected project plus expected benefits	2
Improved energy auditing skills	2
Improved technology knowledge	2
Financial analysis	2
Strengths, needs & priorities of community	2
Identify partners/opportunities for collaboration	2
Better articulate the case for renewable energy/marketing the plan	2
Measuring results of projects	1
Regional opportunities & initiatives	1
Understanding of political climate	1
Identify long-term local champion	1
Better understanding/use of resources such as Focus on Energy	1

Better understand infrastructure & operations of energy conservation/efficiency/renewables	1
Improved ability to obtain buy-in from stakeholders	1
If you are part of a joint planning effort with other jurisdictions, please describe	
10 the challenges and opportunities you expect as you go through a multi-jurisdictional planning process.	
<u>Opportunities:</u>	
Share plans, ideas, technical knowledge, and lessons learned	1
Further collaboration on other projects related to implementation and expansion of the project	1
Potential for joint purchasing/cost-sharing for the promotion and implementation of renewable energy sources	1
Wide base of support for the project and knowledge of area renewable energy related information	1
EIC Team will be able to identify projects that benefit from economies of scale, for example, bio-fuel generation for diesel fleet	1
Development of personal working relationships	
<u>Challenges:</u>	
Getting all of the key representatives in one place, at one time, on a monthly basis and making sure they are all 'up to speed'	4
Complexities of collecting baseline information from nine different partners who use multiple energy providers	1
Analysis of the baseline information and ensuing recommendations may not be as detailed to each individual partner community as we might have hoped as the template is being completed for the region as a whole	1
Each community has different needs and priorities to address	1
Elected members of each EIC sub-team must adequately report to their board to keep them 'up to speed' so there are no surprises.	1



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**Wisconsin Counties Association
Holiday Inn
Stevens Point, WI
June 29th, 2009**

Energy Independent Communities 2nd Quarterly Meeting

9:00-10:00

Morning Introduction/Welcome

- John Reinemann/ Monica GrovesBatiza - Welcome
- Mayor Andrew Halverson, City of Stevens Point (invited)
- O. Philip Idsvoog Portage County Board Chair (confirmed)
- John Reinemann/ Monica GrovesBatiza - Overview

10:00-10:15

Break

10:15-12:00

EI Pilot Communities – Panel Discussion

- EI Pilot Community Leaders present community priorities (10 local elects)
 - Brown County
 - Chequamegon Bay
 - Osceola
 - Marshfield
 - Columbus
 - Evansville
 - Platteville & Lancaster
 - Oconomowoc
 - Fairfield
 - Spring Green
- Energy Center of Wisconsin – presentation of energy data tool
 - Sean Weitner, Lee DeBaillie

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

- **Proposed speakers:**
 - UW-SP Dean, College of Natural Resources – Christine Thomas (invited)
 - UW-SP Chancellor – Linda Bunnell (invited)
 - Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) Executive Director, Tehri Parker (invited)

1:00-2:00

EI Communities Evaluation/ Next Steps

- Survey – feedback for priorities at future meetings – Local Government Institute
- Question & Answer – EI Pilot Communities (10 local leaders)

See next meeting below.

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This is the second in a series of four quarterly meetings. Here is information on the other meetings:

March 26, 2009

Renewable Energy Summit, Midwest Express Center, Milwaukee, WI

June 29, 2009

Counties Association, Holiday Inn Conference Center, Stevens Point, WI

September 23, 2009

WEDA Conference, Eau Claire, WI

December 2009

TBA -- Green Bay or Wausau

Or go to the Local Government Institute website for updates:

<http://www.localgovinstitute.org/?q=node/40>