

# Capacity Meeting Summary

March 6, 2009

## Program Description/Outcomes

- Maximizing renewable energy and energy efficiency use.
- Combining federal stimulus funding with Building Energy Management Program.
  - Building program will assist throughout the entire process: audit to efficiency implementation.
  - Building program is now working to get pre-project assessments completed.
- Community Colleges working collaboratively to establish training programs in the areas of wind turbine maintenance, weatherization, etc to ensure capacity.

## Funding Capacity-Building

- Potential to create scholarship program for renewable energy and energy efficiency careers.
- Discussion of creating a certified energy auditor or building maintenance programs or creating state requirements for “energy efficient” buildings.
- Community colleges also working to create “Top 10 Green Jobs” list, one source training for weatherization (replicable programs available across the state), and list of “short-term” programs.
- Potential to recreate former Iowa DNR programs in the areas of architect/contractor/engineer certifications.

## Barriers

- Enforcement of building/energy codes in small towns:
  - Discussion of having “regional” inspectors to help with state code enforcement.
- Capacity in communities with populations of less than 35,000 may be lacking; state will need to identify gaps and work to create solutions.

## Next Steps

- Creating Criteria
  - The list should be short because there is a potential for large numbers of applications.
    - Discussion of applicants justifying their own projects
  - Technical Criteria– Will projects pay for themselves in their useful life?
    - Energy independence measures: promoting Iowa-based/produced energy
  - Financial Criteria – Projects’ ability to leverage all existing financial opportunities: Building Energy Management program, utility rebates, local funding, etc.
  - Economic development/quality of life Criteria
    - Capacity building and job creation – how will the project help others?
    - Projects should demonstrate replicability, transferability, and innovation.
    - Environmental/sustainability of project is important.
- Distribution of funds
  - Utilize economic development groups to provide input on how main street businesses can be helped.
  - Discussion of interest buy-downs, cash participation in projects, and loan guarantees.
- Other Suggestions:
  - Develop a series of 1-day sessions where state departments cover their portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for consistent message delivery to all Iowans.