

Priority #2 – Coordinated Municipal Energy Initiative

Overview:

There is a unique opportunity to make long lasting energy reductions within municipal government. Reducing municipal energy use would have far reaching financial and environmental benefits as well as increase the public's awareness of the need to reduce energy use. Given the limited resources and varying levels of expertise in municipal government, communities will be best served through a coordinated approach that offers a logical and reliable path to access a multitude of services, programs and assistance that are customized to the needs of the community. The EESE Board recommends, and will help coordinate and advance, a comprehensive approach that is accessible and comprehensible to municipal staff, public boards and concerned citizens. This approach will continue to use and build upon existing programs and efforts, making it easier for municipalities to access services and implement energy saving measures.

Key Elements:

- Municipalities will have access to a coherent, **consistent roadmap** to achieving energy reductions.
- This roadmap will enable communities, working with their energy committees or commissions, to proceed through a deliberate **five step process**:
 1. **Inventory** energy usage in public facilities and vehicle fleets.
 2. **Prioritize** which facilities/fleets should be addressed first.
 3. **Audit** the facilities/fleets and recommend actions to improve energy use.
 4. Take **Action** to implement energy improvements.
 5. **Measure and Verify** energy savings.
- To successfully achieve and optimize lasting energy savings, municipalities will need:
 1. **Technical Assistance** to identify resources, establish a baseline, select vendors, prioritize tasks, implement energy savings, and verify results.
 2. **Tools and technologies** including a trusted web-based information clearinghouse and a database for sharing inventories and documented results.
 3. **Funding and financing mechanisms**, including both public and private dollars, to make energy improvements feasible and affordable.
 4. **Coordination and communication** among the many nonprofit, public, and private entities engaged in planning and/or delivery of relevant EE programs, services and resources - each of which brings complementary strengths and relationships to the table.

ESE Board Roles for 2010:

- Facilitate coordination and collaboration among parties, funding streams, and relevant activities
- Help address obstacles, challenges and system gaps as brought forward by implementers and other participants
- Support use of RGGI and other funds under the PUC's jurisdiction in coordination with this effort
- Assist in coordination of application for ARRA or other competitive federal funds, and help guide investment of existing ARRA funds
- Develop and broadcast specific annual goals for achieving energy use and GHG reductions at the municipal level
- Foster communication and assist in sharing stories of results achieved as means to enhance municipal engagement and success
- Inform policy and regulatory developments that will facilitate municipal participation, strengthen capacity to compete for federal funds, facilitate market transformation, etc.

Desired Results:

- Existence of a clear, well-traveled path for municipal energy saving investments
- Achievement of interim annual local milestones toward long-term RPS and GHG reduction goals
- Achievement of state's long-term RPS and GHG goals at the local level
- Municipal policies, regulations and practices incorporate EE and SE considerations as routine part of annual operating and capital budgeting processes
- Creation of sustainable funding and financing mechanisms