



FACT SHEET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Re: City Energy Conservation Strategy / Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

- **Small Scale Wind Power Assessment – Urban Wind Turbines**
- **Hydropower Assessment – Both Large Scale and Micro-Scale**
- **Large Scale Wind Power Assessment – Potential Development of a Wind Farm**
- **Concourse Parking Garage – Energy Efficient Lighting Retrofit**

Background Analysis

- In 2009 the City was informed that it would receive approximately \$1.6 million in an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) through the Department of Energy (DOE). This program was created through the use of federal Economic Stimulus funds.
- City staff assembled several project proposals that would allow the award of the \$1.6 million in funding through the EECBG grant program.
- As part of the grant process, the City was required to assemble an Energy Conservation Strategy document that outlined, in general terms, the approach to energy efficiency that the City was moving towards.
- The various proposals that accompanied the EECBG applications included small and large scale wind projects, emissions inventory, energy efficient building upgrades, IT – energy efficient server system upgrades, energy code inspections, hydroelectric power analysis, waste-to-profit program, and parking lot lighting retrofit.

City Energy Conservation Strategy

- City staff has attached a copy of the Energy Conservation Strategy document for review. The document highlights the efforts of the *GREEN Communities Coalition Group*; specific sustainability/energy efficiency/resource management goals for the City; and, specific plans for implementation of the EECBG program funds.
- Additional highlights of the strategy document include the following:
 - U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (approved by the City in 2008);
 - The potential development of a 200-acre solar panel field;

- The emphasis of creating public-private partnerships that will allow the City and region to leverage additional funding (or job creation) through the use of energy efficient technologies;
- A commitment to moving forward with establishing a baseline of the City's carbon footprint; and,
- Ultimately leverage our manufacturing / research & development heritage to bring additional green employment to the region.
- The EECBG application is a stepping stone to an expanded Energy Conservation Strategy that the City would like to contribute to a larger ***Sustainability Policy***. Many communities are finding that the creation and adoption of such a policy have provided the backdrop for making cultural changes in how they will competitively evolve in the global marketplace.

EECBG Projects: A brief overview:

- *Small Scale Wind Assessment* – City Staff have collected some general available wind resource data for the urban area. In order to potentially develop wind turbine technology for the urban environment, further, more formal assessment work is required. This project will allow the City to gather this data and ultimately site specific turbines in and around the Rock River corridor.
- *Large Scale Wind Assessment* – through previous efforts the City has collected table-top analysis data for the potential wind farm site on publically owned property located in northwest Rockford. This project will allow the second phase of design engineering, including the installation of met towers to gather site specific wind resource data, as well as pin point actual wind turbine locations. The installation process was complete in September 2010 and is currently collecting data.
- *Hydropower Assessment* – City staff has gathered archival information regarding the Fordam Dam, but little is known about its ability to generate hydroelectric power. This project will provide the baseline data to clarify whether the dam could be used for power generation in a cost efficient manner. Additional hydropower resources that could be utilized through the use of micro-power facilities within the watershed will also be analyzed.
- *Concourse Parking Deck Lighting Retrofit* – As part of the EECBG program, the City is near completion of retrofitting the Concourse Parking Deck with energy efficient lighting that includes the use of induction luminaire technology.
- *Green House Gas Emission Inventory* - As part of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Cool Cities Initiative, the City in partnership with the Green Communities Coalitions desires to perform a greenhouse emissions inventory of all city facilities, vehicles and associated energy emissions. A report is being developed of the completed Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for City Operations and associated activities for base year 2008. This report will identify operational areas for emission (energy cost) improvements and recommend obtainable CO2 emissions. This inventory will quantify six green house gases covered by the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement which the City of Rockford has agreed to follow. These gases include :
 - *Carbon DioxideCO2 Methane..... CH4*
 - *Nitrous OxideN2O HydrofluorocarbonsHFCs*
 - *PerfluorocarbonsPFCs Sulphur hexafluoride ...SF4*
 The inventory will utilize protocols and guidelines developed by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and methodology established by the U.S. EPA

(USEPA). It is anticipated the inventory will help identify strategies to reduce operational energy cost.

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