

NEWS

Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners

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IACBMC receives *Illinois Energy Now* grant to help local governments improve energy savings

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners (IACBMC) has received an *Illinois Energy Now* grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to increase awareness of the energy efficiency incentives and provide application assistance to public entities that otherwise would not have the technical resources to apply.

“Prior to implementation of the *Illinois Energy Now* program, Illinois did not have a coordinated effort to achieve public sector energy reduction goals,” DCEO director Warren Ribley said. “Through this program, we are helping to lower the energy bills of schools, parks and police stations, while creating green sector jobs.”



The *Illinois Energy Now* program offers a portfolio of both electric and natural gas efficiency programs to achieve targeted annual energy savings goals. Local governments including counties, municipalities, townships, public K-12 schools and park districts receive financial incentives for installing energy efficient products. Incentives can range from 15% up to 75% of your energy improvement costs. By improving energy efficiency in public facilities, local governments will continue to be rewarded in the future, with long-term savings on utility bills.

Illinois Energy Now was created under the Public Utilities Act giving Illinois among the most ambitious energy efficiency standards in the nation. The initiative is funded by a Systems Benefit Charge on customer’s monthly utility bills. Not by tax dollars.

“Nearly one-third of the energy used to run a typical government building can be conserved,” IACBMC executive director Kelly Murray said. “As local governments grapple with tightening budgets, the incentives offered through *Illinois Energy Now* could save you thousands of dollars on your next upgrade project. Lower utility bills means more money for direct services.”

The IACBMC can assist local governments in identifying projects eligible for public sector incentives and provides **FREE** application assistance. Through its partnership with DCEO and the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) (www.sedac.org) technical assistance is also available to determine the right course of action. Resources and services include energy audits, analysis and design assistance, computer modeling, site inspection and performance based contracting solutions.

Electric measures include:

- Lighting equipment
- HVAC equipment
- Motors and drives
- LED traffic signals
- Refrigeration equipment

Natural gas measures include:

- Gas furnaces
- Boilers / Condensing boilers
- Water heaters
- Kitchen steam cookers
- Low flow spray valves

To learn more about *Illinois Energy Now*, visit www.illinoisenergy.org. For application assistance or to schedule a meeting with your local government, contact Carol Kulek at (217) 741-2489, kulek79@aol.com.

The Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners is the official state organization of Illinois’ county governing officials. IACBMC is devoted exclusively to enhancing the stature, role and responsiveness of county government in the State of Illinois.