

WBR ARTICLE

Wyo. receives over \$11 million in energy efficiency stimulus funds

By staff

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CHEYENNE – The Wyoming State Energy Office received over \$11 million in federal stimulus funding recently to promote energy efficiency in buildings and homes around the state.

Wyoming's local government agencies, nonprofits, tribal entities, and joint powers boards are eligible to apply for part of the funding to retrofit existing buildings to improve energy efficiency by a goal of 25 percent. Middle-income homeowners may apply for rebates for weatherization assistance previously available to low-income households.

The funding comes from an over \$3.1 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriation to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to fund state programs that prioritize energy savings, increase the use of renewable energy, and create or retain jobs.

"These stimulus dollars will help businesses and homeowners create lasting energy efficiency improvements that will save them money on their utility bills and help make the most of our energy resources," said Shannon Stanfill, manager of the Wyoming State Energy Office.

Over \$9.4 million of today's funding will go to the Facility Retrofit Grant Program, and over \$1.7 million will go toward an expansion of the Weatherization Program. Program descriptions follow.

The State Energy Office also received over \$1.2 million for a third component, an expansion of the Residential Photovoltaic Program to include other renewable energy sources, however, the state's plan is still under review by the DOE and funding for the program will be made available at a later date.

Today's total funding brings Wyoming to 50 percent of what the state is expected to receive for the three programs. After demonstrating successful implementation of the funding, the state is expected to be awarded more than \$12 million in additional funding, for a total of nearly \$25 million.

The State Energy Office must have these energy stimulus funds obligated by Jan. 31, 2011.

Applications for and information about the program are available at www.wyomingbusiness.org or toll-free at 1.888.232.5390.