



DOUGLAS TAKES THE "MICHIGAN GREEN COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE"

The Douglas City Council recently took action authorizing the City's participation in the "Michigan Green Communities Challenge." The Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth ("DELEG") and the Michigan Municipal League ("League") developed the "Michigan Green communities Challenge," a program designed to provide communities with tools to incorporate energy efficiency and conservation strategies. In a unique collaborative effort between DELEG and the League, the Challenge is a step by step process designed to ensure that all Michigan communities have the tools necessary to incorporate energy efficiency and conservation strategies.

"All Michigan communities are eligible to complete the Basic Challenge," said DELEG Director Stanley Pruss, who also serves as the State's Chief Energy Officer. "The Basic Challenge is a commitment community leaders can make to adopt policies and programs of energy efficiency and conservation."

Daniel P. Gilmartin, executive director and CEO of the League, added, "At its most basic level, the Challenge is a recognition program developed through the joint efforts of the Bureau of Energy Systems and the League and is intended to provide a roadmap for all communities-large and small-to 'go green.' Additionally, however, the Challenge is specifically designed to assist communities that apply for funds under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program."

Douglas officials believe investments in energy efficiency represent a major opportunity for Michigan to create jobs, save money, and reduce the State's reliance on fossil fuels. In fact, energy efficiency creates more jobs per dollar than fuel-based solutions. By replacing traditional fossil fuel energy, Michigan's energy efficiency program will save Michigan over \$3 billion in electricity costs over the next 20 years.

Michigan stands to receive approximately \$1 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy. DELEG is responsible for deployment of these funds to support three of Governor Granholm's five key priorities for investing Michigan's share of economic recovery dollars:

1. Creating new jobs to jumpstart Michigan's economy;
2. Training Michigan workers and educating Michigan students for good jobs here today and new jobs created tomorrow;
3. Investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to create jobs, save money, and reduce state's reliance on fossil fuels.

DELEG's Bureau of Energy Systems is specifically charged with coordinating ARRA funds in a number of energy-related programs including an expanded State Energy Program; the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) program; and an Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program.

The Bureau is also working with the Michigan Municipal League to prepare and assist communities in the implementation of the EECBG. The Bureau also administers the Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) that provides no-cost onsite pollution prevention and energy efficiency assessments to businesses, and Rebuild MI Program, which provides onsite energy efficiency assessments to public buildings, as well as other programs including Green Lodging Michigan, Clean Cities, Michigan Biomass Energy Program, and the Green Communities Challenge.