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The Local Energy Outlook

In this issue, Applied Solution's Chief Economist Dr. James Barrett examines the opportunity to reduce Detroit's debt and protect its assets through investing in clean energy systems. The full article is available at the Applied Solutions website Clean Economy Blog page.
WEBINARS

Upcoming Webinar: Two Successful On-Bill Financing Models

Thursday, May 16th 10:00am-11:00am PDT/1:00pm-2:00pm EDT

Two successful On-Bill Financing models, Clean Energy Works Oregon and Midwest Energy How$mart®, will be presented during this webinar. Clean Energy Works Oregon has transformed over 2,500 homes with two separate models for financing energy efficiency upgrades. Midwest Energy How$mart® is a utility run program which has financed improvements for over 700 customers in Kansas. Join us to learn more about the implementation of this modern energy efficiency financing.

Speaking on behalf of their programs are Brian Alfano, Lender Relations Manager with Clean Energy Works Oregon and Michael Volker Director of Regulatory & Energy Services with Midwest Energy, Inc.

Space is limited, register for the webinar here. For videos and materials from past webinars, please visit our website.

PROJECT PROFILES

Clean Energy Works Oregon

Clean Energy Works began in 2009 as a pilot program in Portland to facilitate energy efficiency improvement financing for homeowners. In 2010, the Department of Energy awarded Clean Energy Works $20 million to expand the successful pilot program statewide. The goal of Clean Energy Works Oregon is to finance up to $30,000 in energy efficiency retrofits through no-money-down and easy financing. Energy assistants are available to guide homeowners through the process and offer rebates if available. Homeowners can either repay their loan through their monthly heating or utility bill, or directly to the lender. The program has had much success transforming over 2,500 homes through December 2012, and generating $26 million in economic development.

Learn more about their program on their website.

Midwest Energy How$mart®

The How$mart® program is a utility run program through Midwest Energy that offers financing for energy efficiency improvements in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. Midwest Energy was the first utility in the country to voluntarily adopt such a program. Energy efficiency improvements through How$mart® includes upgrades such as installation, sealing, and new heating and cooling systems. The upgrades are repaid through the energy savings on their monthly utility bill. The program is tied to the
location and not to the original owner, so that if the building is sold, the next owner takes on responsibility for the loan repayments while also inheriting the benefits of the program. Since their launch in 2008, more than $4.4 million has been invested to finance improvements for over 700 customers. These improvements have saved over 1.5 million kilowatt hours in electricity savings per year, and over 200,000 therms of natural gas. About $53 per month is saved by the average How$mart® participant.

Learn more about their program on their website.

CURRENT NEWS AND RESOURCES

Innovative Energy Efficiency Financing in Pennsylvania

A Pennsylvania program that has revolutionized financing of energy efficiency projects reached an important milestone when the Pennsylvania Treasury recently sold almost 4,700 loans for a total of $31.3 million. Keystone HELP (Home Energy Loan Program) provides low-interest loans for qualifying residents to perform energy efficiency upgrades such as high efficiency furnace replacements, geothermal heating and cooling units, door and window replacements, and insulation projects. The program, initially run through the AFC First Financial, was launched statewide in 2006 and has grown to 11,000 loans for $75 million. This is the first case of energy-efficiency loans being sold in the country, and is seen as an important milestone in the effort to develop a secondary market for such loans. Selling these loans frees up capital and creates a secondary market, which in turn reduces costs for future energy efficiency loans and projects.

For more information, please visit the Keystone HELP website.

Study Reveals Hidden Costs of Electricity

The report The Hidden Costs of Electricity: Comparing the Hidden Costs of Power Generation Fuels, commissioned by the Civil Society Institute, explores the full costs of power generation. It has been a mistake in the past not to include "indirect" costs into when discussing the cost of generating power. For all power sources there are hidden environmental costs involved, although certain power sources have higher costs. This report investigates many hidden cost factors of main power sources. It examines cost and planning risks, subsidies, climate change impacts, air impacts, water impacts, land impacts, and other impacts of biomass, coal, natural gas, nuclear, solar power, and wind power.

More information about the study can be found here.

Better Buildings Summit: Unlocking a Clean Energy Economy for State and Local Communities

Working closely with the Department of Energy, we are thrilled to bring you information on the second annual DOE Better Buildings Summit for State and Local Governments. Held in Washington DC May 30-31, this conference will allow participants to learn innovative strategies, policies, and models for adopting and
implementing clean energy solutions in their communities that save money, create jobs, increase energy security and protect the environment.

More information, including a link to registration, can be found on this flyer.

**From a Dump to a Million Dollar Solar Farm**

A New Jersey landfill that has sat dormant for years received a second life as a $17.8 million solar farm. The joint effort between Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G), the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission, and SunDurance Energy, an Edison-based solar developer, is the first solar project built on a state-owned landfill. This project exemplifies the beneficial use of old landfills and brownfields that are otherwise underutilized assets, while avoiding renewables development on greenfields.

For more information, please visit the full article.

**Webinars to Highlight City Leadership in Sustainability**

The National League of Cities’ Sustainability Program is hosting several webinars that will highlight city leadership in sustainability. Selected cities will present innovative programs, policies or initiatives that have been critical in moving the sustainability conversation forward in their communities.

April 23rd: Flagstaff, Arizona
April 30th: Seattle, Washington

Mark your calendars and register today!

**The State of Adaptation in the United States**

A new report funded by the MacArthur Foundation, written in collaboration with EcoAdapt, the University of Washington, Georgetown University, and the University of California-Davis examines the ways in which society is responding to climate change in the planning and management of cities, agriculture, and natural resources in a report titled “The State of Adaptation in the United States.” The report also identifies gaps that need to be filled to prepare communities for climate change, as well as actions to address those gaps.

More information and a link to the report can be found here.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BUILDING A CLEAN ECONOMY