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APPLIED SOLUTIONS NEWS

Applied Solutions Launches Unique Clean Economy Membership Platform
On November 12, Applied Solutions launches its unique membership platform. This platform will bring students, individuals, organizations, and businesses together to collaborate on the design and implementation of a clean economy. It will provide a cross-state approach to entrepreneur solutions through various means. You can see what our membership offers at Applied Solutions Membership.

A recent student member said, "Applied Solutions gives me the opportunity to advance my interest and work in the field of sustainability and local governments," Sam Sacks, Virginia Tech. With local governments at the forefront, Applied Solutions reaches across all sectors to engage and invite all to become a part of the emerging clean economy and play a direct role in its design.

View from the Economist's Office

In this issue, Applied Solution's Chief Economist Dr. James Barrett breaks down the basics of a clean economy, basics of a clean economy, and the role local governments have in developing a clean economy and how it can benefit their constituents.

The full article is available at the Applied Solutions website Clean Economy Blog page.

Invitation to Submit Clean Energy and Water Projects for Peer Review

The Applied Solutions Technical Advisory Council (ASTAC) is a network of highly skilled local government professionals who together serve as a technical support network on clean energy and sustainability work to counties and cities across the country. This network provides assistance, best practices and "what works" knowledge to accelerate clean energy, efficient water, and low impact transportation development. The ASTAC is inviting local governments to submit projects for an online facilitated peer review or individual consultation by an ASTAC member. Project reviews will be summarized and highlighted on the Applied Solutions Technical Advisory Council webpage for the benefit of all county and city members.

Through facilitated peer exchange, the understanding of clean energy project design and implementation of clean energy projects will grow substantially. For more information visit Applied Solutions Technical Advisory Council on the Applied Solutions website.

If you are a local government and interested in submitting a clean energy project to the ASTAC for peer evaluative support, please contact ASTAC Co-Chairs Amy Bolten (amy.bolten@scwa.ca.gov) or Jonathan Koehn (Koehnj@bouldercolorado.gov).

Technical Advisory Council Provides Input to Allegheny County's Strategic Facilities Plan

The Applied Solutions Technical Advisory Council held its first online collaborative forum last month to provide input to a Local Government member project. On October 19 Allegheny County, PA presented their Strategic Facilities Plan and obtained live feedback from Knoxville,
TN and Montgomery County, MD among others. A summary of the peer-review is on the webinars page of the Applied Solutions website.

The next upcoming ASTAC Webinar will take place this December and will be focused on Larimer County, CA and their Regional Energy Master Plan with input from other cities and counties around the country with a similar vision. If you are interested in submitting a clean energy or water project for ASTAC review please contact Amy Bolten at amy.bolten@scwa.ca.gov.

WEBINARS

Riverside County's PACE Program Reveals the Secrets to Their Success

Wednesday November 14th 10am PST/ 1pm EST

The HERO Program which launched December 2011 in Riverside County, California has been named the nation's largest PACE financing program that helps residential and commercial property owners pay for solar installation, energy retrofits, and water conservation projects. Discover the secrets to this region's success with PACE through this webinar.

Speaking on behalf of the program is Barbara Spoonhour, Director of Energy and Environmental Programs, Western Riverside Council of Governments.

Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now.

Upcoming Technical Advisory Council Webinar:
Larimer County Regional Energy Master Plan

Thursday, December 13, 2012 10am PDT/ 1pm EDT

This innovative new webinar format will feature a collaborative discussion between Michael Kirk, Director of Facilities Services of Larimer County, CO, who will be presenting the County's Regional Energy Master Plan, with response and input from other local governments. This will be an interactive webinar that welcomes live input during the webinar from participants.

Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at www.gotomeeting.com/register.

If you are a local government and interested in submitting a clean energy project to the ASTAC for peer evaluative support, please contact us at info@appliedsolutions.org.
HERO - Riverside County's PACE Program

The HERO Program which launched December 2011 in Western Riverside County, California and has been named the nation's largest PACE financing program that helps residential and commercial property owners pay for solar installation, energy retrofits, and water conservation projects.

The Program is administered by the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG). With the HERO program a homeowner enters into a voluntary contractual assessment and agrees to repay the cost of the improvements through an annual property tax assessment lasting up to 20 years. If a building is sold or transferred, the agreement may remain with the property.

In September, WRCOG announced the approval of more than $50 million for residential energy retrofits, with half of that funding approved since July. Approximately 2,000 homeowners have applied for HERO PACE financing and most of these applicants- around 1,250, have qualified. About 300 residential projects worth $5 million have been completed and two-thirds of the projects have funded energy efficiency measures. Over $50 million in commercial projects are being processed for approval.

Click here to see more on HERO.

CURRENT NEWS AND RESOURCES

Sonoma County Program Supports School Energy and Water Retrofits

On October 19, 2012 representatives from Sonoma County, CA school districts, cities, higher education and hospitals gathered for a daylong meeting to review the final details of a program to fund energy efficiency and water retrofits on schools, public and non-profit buildings. This mechanism, called the Sonoma County Efficiency Financing (SCEF) Program, aggregates large numbers of energy and water retrofits to be collectively funded through a joint municipal bond and is backed by contractually guaranteed cost savings through a pre-qualified set of energy service companies. The projects that can be funded through this program include not only short payback retrofits such as lighting and energy control systems but also large, capital intensive improvements such as windows, heating and cooling systems, boilers and chillers that are difficult to finance. Replacing these often aging items helps reduce maintenance and operations costs, alleviating budget problems for schools and other government agencies.

In bringing all the participants together for a collective bond issuance, individual schools, municipalities and non-profits share administrative costs, including the expenses of developing of contracts, legal review and qualification of energy service companies. The size of the group also allows for favorable terms for the participants which guarantee financials savings to cover all costs as opposed to the traditional model of such projects which are much less secure.

The initial size of the project is expected to be $30 million to $50 million in local energy and water retrofits. Project management will be through national energy service companies, which have the capital and experience to contractually back such large amounts of work for a 20 year
period while guaranteeing cost savings to the program participants. It is expected that local contractors will perform the vast majority of the work. For more information visit somonacountywater.org/scef.

This program is being modeled from a successful program underway in Delaware which last year issued $76 million in bonds to fund energy and water retrofits at eight state institutional buildings including a community college, Delaware State University and other entities. This program was developed and implemented by Nobel Prize laureate Dr. John Byrne, founder of the non-profit Foundation for Renewable Energy and Environment (FREE).

Redesigning the Grid with Renewable Energy

How productive renewable energy sources are depends significantly on where they are located geographically. Different renewable energy resources such as wind, sun, and water work best in the places where those elements are most powerful. For example, this map provided by the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows how hydropower provides a large amount of electricity in Washington (more than 60%) but not much elsewhere. This image shared by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) proves that States such as Texas and Minnesota are prime locations for wind-generated electricity, but the more east or west traveled, the less powerful the winds are. The same goes for solar power shown on this map also by the NREL- it works best where the sun is strongest.

The existing power grid is not capable of shipping electricity the distances it needs in order to allow power to major cities, or deal with the highs and lows of production caused by weather. New investments in the grid are needed not only to replace the parts that are wearing out, but also to make the most out of new opportunities- including renewable energies. View all these diagrams side by side and the story here.

NREL Releases Renewable Energy Contracts Library

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has assembled a library of contracts and forms for the development of renewable energy projects. This growing collection was developed to assist in reducing the time and expense involved in the contracting and permitting process of project development. Document categories include: Power Purchase Agreements, Request for Proposals, Interconnection Agreements, Engineering Procurement and Construction Contracts, Operation and Maintenance Contracts, Renewable Energy Leases, Green Leases, Miscellaneous.

For additional information or to contribute to the library please visit financere.nrel.gov/

Click here to Join Applied Solutions and Become a Part of the Clean Economy.