

GHGERF 2010 Grant First Quarter Updates

April 5, 2011

Introduction

On December 8, 2010 the Governor and Executive Council approved six contracts for two-year programs funded through the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund (GHGERF). Three programs, the New Hampshire Business Finance Authority's revolving loan fund, the Retail Merchants Association of NH Energy Efficiency program, and the New Hampshire Department of Economic Development/Lakes Region Community College Energy Efficiency Training Program are continuations of grant-funded programs initiated in 2009. Three new programs were also funded: the Pay for Performance program, designed to assist large energy users to achieve energy efficiency; the Greener Homes Program, that is already being utilized to preserve and improve affordable rental units; and, the Manufactured Home Weatherization Program, bringing energy efficiency to mobile home residents who can least afford rising energy prices. To date, the grantees have spent over \$300,000 developing their programs. A summary of these programs and their activities in the past three months follows.

The New Hampshire Business Finance Authority (BFA) – Business Energy Conservation Revolving Loan Fund

The BFA was awarded \$2,000,000 to expand its energy conservation revolving loan fund for businesses and non-profits, initially established through a \$2,000,000 2009 GHGERF grant. In 2010 this fund committed \$1,960,000 to NH businesses to make energy efficiency improvements. These loans, which would not have been funded through other lending institutions, are helping recipients to lower energy expenses and improve competitiveness. In February, 2011 the BFA closed a \$750,000 loan with Shelburne Plastics, (Manchester, NH) that will enable the company to significantly upgrade its manufacturing equipment, resulting in annual savings of 1,750,000 kWh. The BFA has also been actively working on a loan to the Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse Disposal District's methane gas project to support the re-opening of the Gorham paper mill. Other projects in various stages are loans to Warwick Mills (Manchester, NH) and Timberpeg (Claremont, NH). Loan dollars allocated to Foss Manufacturing in 2010 are already being paid back to the revolving loan fund. The BFA has received \$746,000 to date of the 2010 grant award required to adequately seed the loan fund.

The Retail Merchants Association of New Hampshire (RMANH) – Energy Efficiency Program

The RMANH received a grant for \$2,000,000 to expand its highly successful 2009 Energy Efficiency program for retail operations. The program helps businesses identify energy savings opportunities and provides implementation support for measures that reduce energy costs. The program is also showcasing some of the best examples of these energy investments to spur other New Hampshire retailers to take similar actions. RMANH plans to enroll 50 new businesses in 2011, up from 25 in 2009-2010 and increase participation to approximately 100 new businesses in 2012. The RMANH program has enrolled businesses from diverse sectors including, but not limited to, condo associations, museums, veterinary hospitals, restaurants, real estate firms, financial planning operations, and a wide array of traditional retail operations.



Department of Resources & Economic Development / Lakes Region Community College (DRED/LRCC) – Energy Efficiency Job Training Program

DRED, in partnership with LRCC and supporting partner, Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI), received \$400,000 to expand its job training classes to prepare New Hampshire’s workforce for green energy jobs in the energy efficiency sector. In this new phase of the program, courses will be expanded to cover a wider range of job skills. Classes are supported by a Mentoring Support program to give qualified candidates supervised hands-on experience with both energy audits and installations. This program will help to ensure that weatherization and energy efficiency measures will be implemented through well trained locally-based businesses who can deliver energy efficiency and weatherization installations that are both safe and sound. Since the 2011-2012 grant was announced in October of 2010, DRED, LRCC, and PAREI have invested over 200 hours of staff time preparing to implement the Efficiency Training Program.

TRC Energy Services – Pay for Performance (P4P) Program



The new P4P Program, based on a nationally recognized program that TRC implements in New Jersey, comprehensively addresses the energy efficiency needs of the commercial and industrial sector by working with participants (such as developers, and building owners) to improve energy efficiency in commercial and industrial buildings. The Program is implemented through a network of qualified Program Partners who oversee the installation of the proposed scope, and verify that the installation will achieve the estimated energy performance. To date, TRC has accepted and trained 12 Partner consulting and construction firms to work with large energy users to develop energy management plans, including financing options and implementation strategies. Due to numerous requests, a second solicitation for Partners is planned for May. In addition to the 12 firms that have been selected for participating in P4P, TRC has hired one additional full-time staff member to support the program. P4P is just starting to provide services to large energy users throughout the state including cities, private and public schools, hospitals, and manufacturers. To date, TRC has had requests for services from five of our state’s manufacturers, the NH Hospital Association (on behalf of their members), two real estate management firms, two large schools with multiple buildings, and two cities.

The New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) – Greener Homes Program (GHP)

With this \$2,000,000 grant, the NHHFA and its partners in this project, the state’s six Community Action Agencies, are providing rigorous energy audits and energy efficiency upgrades for low-income apartment units throughout the state. The program provides detailed energy audits to ensure that building upgrades result in cost-effective building envelope upgrades. GHP’s annual target is to upgrade the energy efficiency for approximately 785 low-income units, particularly “at-risk” affordable housing (publically financed affordable housing at, or near, the end of the period when rent affordability restrictions expire) to foster the extension of affordability restrictions for an additional 20 years. Qualified third-party energy consultants have been selected to work with individual property owners to perform energy audits and provide cost-effective recommendations for equipment and building

envelope upgrades. Eleven audits have been completed under the pilot phase of the GHP, with bid-ready plans forthcoming for work on 430 units of rent-restricted and elderly housing.

The NH Community Loan Fund - Manufactured Home Weatherization Program

The Community Loan Fund is providing deep energy efficiency retrofits in approximately 425 manufactured homes located in a score of resident-owned communities (ROCs) throughout the state. This \$2,000,000 GHGERF grant is being leveraged with funding from the United States Department of Energy for weatherization projects in homes that are often greatly in need of assistance. GHGERF funds will allow, for the first time, the replacement of roofs on manufactured homes that will greatly enhance energy efficiency. In addition, this funding will expand training for the state's Community Action Agencies on basic rehabilitation and energy efficiency measures for manufactured homes. It is estimated that annual savings will average about \$614 per home per year at 2010 energy prices. There is a high demand for the program and a strong interest among homeowners in helping their neighbors. Currently 45 homes have signed on to the program as well as numerous volunteer advocates who are being trained to go door-to-door to explain the program and get qualified people to sign up.

"It's hard to determine whether the response to the program could be classified as 'enthusiastic' or if better explained as 'desperate'. We've met families who are heading down to the local filling station each night for a few gallons of diesel fuel to keep their furnace going at night. Helping these folks use less fuel will have dramatic results for them and will reduce the burden of localities providing other types of emergency assistance.

Craig Welch, NH Community Loan Fund