

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION FUND

Quarterly Progress Report Form

Organization Name: Lakes Region Community College
Program Title: Efficiency Training Program
Program Contact: Andy Duncan
Reporting Period: Calendar Year 2012, Quarter 3, July - September 2012

1) Summary of Work Completed During This Reporting Period

1a) Narrative Summary of Activities

1. BUILDING ANALYST TRAINING COURSES

There were no Building Analyst classes this quarter. Building Performance Institute (BPI) Building Analyst certification testing took place during two periods this quarter, one in August and again in September. The August certification testing also included field and online review components. These Fast-Track certification testings are being counted under the Mentoring program.

2. AIR SEALING AND INSULATION INSTALLER CLASSES

A Weatherization Installer Technician class was held in August at Masco Contractor Services in Nashua. As before, the class was tied with BPI Air Leakage Control Installer (RBE-WH-ALCI) certification testing shortly after the class. This is a materials-intensive course with props, insulation blower, depressurization fans, air sealing and insulation materials, and hand tools. These props and materials were moved in a LRCC tractor-trailer to the Nashua site.

3. BOOT CAMP TRAININGS

A second combined Building Analyst / Weatherization Installer “boot camp” training in Berlin was planned to begin in September of this quarter. This Analyst - Installer program was moved to January 2013 to provide more time for marketing efforts by partners White Mountains Community College and Berlin BetterBuildings.

ETP staff reached out to community organizations in order to offer hands-on community air sealing and insulation workshops as a boot camp alternative for do-it-yourselfers and others not wanting an intensive professional course. Workshops are scheduled for October and November, with more being planned.

4. SHORT-TERM ENERGY EFFICIENCY TRAININGS

See also below at (8) for a discussion of Other Trainings, which LRCC had considerable involvement with. In particular, LRCC’s significant role in developing the Energy Issues in Existing Homes workshop may be better classified under Short Term Trainings.

LRCC was invited to present a seminar on “Air Sealing and Your Health” at Colebrook’s 2012 Health and Energy Expo in early October, with preparation for this event during this quarter. The event itself will be included in the next quarterly report. Additional preparatory work was done for the building

supply store training project, including meeting with a major supplier of weatherization and ventilation supplies.

5. ENERGY SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY EFFICIENCY INTENSIVE CERTIFICATE

The LRCC Energy Services & Technology Efficiency Intensive certificate effort is now geared toward setting up a Building Operator Certification (BOC) program at LRCC. There was a great deal of effort this quarter to prepare an extensive submission packet to the national BOC program for Lakes Region Community College to become a licensed BOC Approved Provider. If approved, LRCC would be the only BOC Approved Provider in northern New England. Ultimately the application materials were submitted in October, with additional effort expended to prepare curriculum samples and address intellectual property issues. Additional funding from another LRCC grant source has been invaluable for costs associated with the application and start-up of this program.

This intensive program would now offer both an Energy Services & Technology (EST) certificate as well as the Building Operator Certification (BOC). Eventually, graduates from the two-year EST program may also be able to earn the BOC certificate. The 8-day program is primarily aimed towards commercial building operators and managers, with a secondary audience of commercial energy professionals. Participants are expected to do homework exercises using the building they manage. By the conclusion of the BOC program, students will have a plan for reducing their building's operating expenses and improving indoor comfort. The initial BOC certificate program is being tentatively planned for early 2013.

6. MENTORING SITE VISITS

The mentoring program was not emphasized this period with only one LRCC Level III mentoring. Because stand-alone BPI testing of students and the Fast-track BPI certification program do not readily fit in other program categories, these activities are included in the Mentoring category. The Fast-Track option provides a streamlined way for experienced energy auditors to become certified or recertified as a BPI (Building Performance Institute) Building Analysts.

A total of 11 students this quarter participated in BPI certification testing activities apart from training classes, some with multiple tests, and some also with review sessions. There were five students during the quarter who took the Fast-Track Building Analyst certification option, including online review materials, a 6-hour field review session, and the BPI Building Analyst field exam. Of these five, three also took the BPI Building Analyst written exam. There was also one student who took only the BPI Building Analyst written exam.

To better serve energy professionals, in September the Fast-Track BPI certification program was modified to a modular system. Rather than an all-in-one program, the review program, written BPI testing and field BPI testing were separated into three components. In September, five students took the Building Analyst field exam, and of these people four also took the Building Analyst written exam.

7. EQUIPMENT PURCHASE AND RENTAL USE

LRCC used its densepack-capable cellulose blower as part of the August – September Weatherization Installer class and Air Leakage Control Installer BPI certification testing. The College also purchased three additional blower doors and an additional combustion analyzer. However, these expenses will be

reported on the fourth quarter ledger. The College also has been in discussions with infrared thermal imager manufacturers for potential discounted purchase of a thermal imager. As the quarter ended, the program is working to set up a practicum-type course for qualified professionals to use this equipment. And there have been discussions with local energy not-for-profit organizations to help arrange for the community use of this equipment by qualified individuals.

8. SUPPORT FOR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY TRAININGS

While there was less activity with BPI classes this quarter, there was considerable activity with producing Other Trainings for energy professionals. The rescheduled two-day Heating Systems Workshop at Manchester Community College was held on August 22-23. Taught by semi-retired MCC Heating Professor Al Little, LRCC staff was involved in helping to set up and publicize this workshop. Because funding support for the workshop came from PAREI, details about this workshop can be found in the PAREI component of this quarterly report.

Most of the advance work for setting up the October 11 Commercial Energy Efficiency one-day workshop was completed over this quarter. Much of the coordination of this workshop was done by PAREI, but LRCC vetted a well-qualified presenter from Steven Winter Associates, and helped develop the workshop program. There was a tight window between booking the presenter and the workshop date, and LRCC staff pitched in to coordinate the production of a mailable brochure. Besides electronic marketing, College funds were used to print and mail the brochure to about 290 addresses. Planning and marketing work for the November 7 Deep Energy Retrofit workshop was also carried out over this quarter, with LRCC taking a lower-level role with this workshop.

Because of its importance in educating a key group of allied professionals, the real estate training project has evolved into a major effort for LRCC. With SERG (the Sustainable Energy Resource Group), LRCC staff worked diligently to totally revamp and resubmit an energy workshop for continuing education accreditation by the New Hampshire Real Estate Commission. The original version of the workshop was turned down for accreditation in May. The revised workshop is now entitled "Energy Issues in Existing Homes: What Real Estate Professionals Need to Know." LRCC moved from an advisory to a co-author role with this revision, helping to get feedback from a wide circle of reviewers, and developing new content for the workshop. The revised workshop was resubmitted shortly after the end of the quarter, and we can hint at good news in the next quarterly report. LRCC, SERG and PAREI are working together to help plan a series of "Energy Issues" presentations for real estate professionals throughout New Hampshire, with the first presentation planned for November 15 in Plymouth.

PAREI and LRCC are also working to plan and implement the remaining schedule of Other Trainings. Because of the continued low-level of awareness with residential energy performance among homeowners, the Efficiency Training Program is particularly interested in planning trainings that help energy professionals market their services.

OVERALL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The ETP program continues to get the word out about efficiency training opportunities through multiple mechanisms and with multiple groups. Both LRCC and PAREI continue to use targeted e-mails as a key means to reach potential participants. The Constant Contact e-mail list is now about 500 names. We also expanded marketing channels this quarter by adding mailing addresses to about

300 of these names. And LRCC has continued to place an ad in the Green Energy Times. The LRCC ETP staff continues to provide informal telephone and e-mail support for training alumni and other energy professionals in New Hampshire, ranging from assistance in locating specialized tools to helping energy professionals find employment. As an example of the support services we provide, in September we linked potential employees with employers by sending an e-mail announcement about three energy auditing job opportunities.

1b) Activity Summary Table

Table 1: Activity Summary Table				
Course / Event	Location	Date	# Participants	# Contact Hours
Weatherization Installer Class	Nashua	Aug. 2012	9	28
BPI ALCI Installer Testing	Nashua	Sept. 2012	8	7
Fast-Track BA Review & 2 Exams	Central NH	Aug. 2012	3	10
Fast-Track BA Review & Exam	Central NH	Aug. 2012	2	8
Fast-Track BA Field Exam	Concord	Sept. 2012	5	2
Fast-Track BA Written Exam	Laconia	Sept. 2012	4	2
Energy Mentoring	Berlin	Sept. 2012	1	6

2) Projected Annual Energy Savings

ETP is a training program. Direct energy savings cannot be measured as part of the training. Therefore, there is no “Table 2: Projected Energy Savings Summary.” ETP participants will use the knowledge they gain through ETP trainings to recommend and install energy efficiency improvements in homes and businesses throughout New Hampshire.

3) Labor Hour Reporting

Table 3: Labor Hour Reporting

Table 3: Labor Hour Reporting (calendar year)							
2011 Q1	2011 Q2	2011 Q3	2011 Q4	2012 Q1	2012 Q2	2012 Q3	2012 Q4
NA						727	

LRCC ETP paid staff: 526 hours

LRCC ETP paid contractors (estimated): 64 hours

LRCC other staff (unbilled cost-share estimated): 137 hours

These numbers are total direct labor hours associated with the project per quarter (calendar year), including ETP full-time and temporary employees, employee paid time off, estimated hours of ETP independent contractors, and estimated unbilled cost-share direct hours of staff conducting ETP tasks.

It does not include the hours associated with indirect activities, homeowner volunteers or other volunteers.

4) Obstacles, Problems and Delays

As noted in the previous quarterly report, there has been a shift of responsibilities from DRED to PAREI with components of the overall Efficiency Training Program. The impact is much less for LRCC than for PAREI, and both organizations continue their strong collaborative working relationship. Final approval for these changes is expected in the fourth quarter of CY 2012.

On a programmatic note, “when fate hands you a lemon, make lemonade.” While already part of the overall ETP grant program, this quarter marks the most definitive shift in broadening training efforts beyond the core BPI energy auditor and weatherization installer training programs. In many ways it is the success of the Efficiency Training Program that compels this shift in effort. The program has trained and certified a number of existing and new energy professionals, installer training notwithstanding. With the winding down of federal stimulus funding for sustainable energy and the lack of awareness among homeowners and building managers, demand for new energy professionals is soft. Nonetheless anecdotal evidence suggests that those who have been trained, certified and have gained experience in this field are doing reasonably well.

ETP’s shift is towards informing allied professionals, building managers, and even homeowners about the benefits of building energy performance. For example, there is a tremendous opportunity for energy improvements at the time of an existing home sale. The new “Energy Issues in Existing Homes” workshop for real estate professionals will help to educate a key audience about these opportunities, which in turn leads to higher demand throughout this field. The twilight of this grant is nearing, but the Efficiency Training Program is already proud of the impact it has made throughout New Hampshire, and we look forward to ending the grant on a strong note.

5) Summary of Work to be Completed Next Quarter

Continued work on a number of projects will be the theme for the fourth quarter of 2012. There will be a number of workshops for energy professionals, allied professionals and homeowners taking place in October and November. Assuming approval as an Approved Provider, planning the specifics of the Building Operator Certification training program will be taking place in the quarter. BPI training activities will be light, with the shift from October to January 2013 of the Weatherization Installer course in Berlin. However, BPI Building Analyst re-certification testing will continue in the upcoming quarter. With expected approval of the existing homes workshop for real estate professionals, there will be a push to schedule these workshops throughout New Hampshire in late 2012 and 2013. Equipment programs will be ramped up for this quarter and beyond. And the training effort with building supply houses will become a focus. All in all, it will be a busy quarter with many short-term programs.

Looking beyond next quarter, the program will continue at least through the first quarter of CY 2013, and will likely have some activities at a reduced level in the second quarter of 2013. Some aspects of LRCC’s Efficiency Training Program may continue beyond the grant period, but at a much lower level. We trust that the positive impacts of the ETP program will be discernible well past the end date of the grant.

6) Beyond the Contract -- Activities, Partnerships, Funding or Other Synergies

LRCC and PAREI staff continue to work with a wide variety of partners to produce a stronger network trained energy professionals and homeowners. As in previous quarters, these strong working relationships are the backbone of the ETP program.

7) Brochures, Announcements and Other Promotional Materials

Attachments include:

-Commercial Energy Efficiency Workshop 3-fold brochure (PDF)

-LRCC July 24, 2012 Constant Contact general e-mail announcement for ETP courses and other opportunities (HTML format)

-LRCC September 4, 2012 Constant Contact general e-mail announcement for ETP courses and other opportunities (HTML format)

-LRCC September 7, 2012 Constant Contact e-mail announcement about three energy auditor job openings (HTML format)

-LRCC September 24, 2012 Constant Contact general e-mail announcement for ETP courses and other opportunities (HTML format)

-“Energy Issues in Existing Homes: What Real Estate Professionals Need to Know” curriculum outline, submitted to the New Hampshire Real Estate Commission

8) Invoicing Form and Budget vs. Actual Expenditures

(Included with invoicing.)