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Arizona Receives Nearly \$1.35 Million Federal Dollars for Energy Programs

State programs that encourage energy efficiency and help reduce utility costs for Arizona citizens, schools, businesses, and municipalities, received a shot in the arm with the announcement from the U.S. Department of Energy that the Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office has been awarded approximately \$1,346,000 in grants for FY 2004. The office will use the grants in partnership with universities and local governments to sustain energy related projects throughout the state.

Commerce Director Gilbert Jimenez says the amount of federal dollars awarded to Arizona is impressive. "Nationally about \$17 million was given to states. Thanks to the consistent and diverse expertise in our energy office, Arizona will receive approximately five percent of the total." Jimenez also points out that the projects funded bring economic as well as environmental benefits to the state.

Among the recent grants awarded is funding for wind energy research and geothermal energy education at Northern Arizona University. The Commerce Energy Office will administer a \$78,378 for a state land wind resource assessment project being undertaken by NAU. The goal of the assessment is to determine whether state owned or administered lands offer enough wind resources for this clean energy development.

Another grant for \$99,640 allows NAU to implement an outreach program to increase the understanding of geothermal in Arizona and provide more specific information on areas with good development potential.

Additional grants received by the Energy Office will help fund the activities of the Clean Cities Coalitions in Maricopa and Pima counties.

A \$100,000 grant was awarded for the Tucson Regional Clean Cities Coalition in cooperation with ENRG Fuel USA Inc, North America's largest provider of vehicular natural gas. The grant matches \$878,350 from ENRG to facilitate deployment of 25 Ford E-350 and/or Crown Victorias to be used as taxis and shuttles in the Tucson metropolitan area.

The Valley of the Sun Clean Cities Coalition will receive a \$106,831 grant to fund the partial incremental cost of 10 natural gas Ford E-450 shuttle buses and an additional grant of \$25,000 to provide for a part-time Coordinator, as well as, development of outreach materials and events. ENRG is providing a cash contribution of \$574,790 for the shuttle bus conversion.

The Energy Office will receive \$83,017 to continue an energy codes outreach program in Pima County. This program has already created a number of private and public partnerships between the state and entities in the homebuilding industry, the affordable housing community, and code officials in Arizona.

In addition to the codes grant, the Energy Office will receive \$100,000 to continue its Industries of the Future program and \$96,890 for its Rebuild America program.

The Industries of the Future program addresses energy concerns in the Agriculture, Aluminum and Forestry and Mining sectors in Arizona to improve the economic competitiveness of these

Arizona industries. The new grant will allow the Energy Office to promote conservation of energy, enhancement of waste management, increase productivity and promotion of renewables.

Under the Rebuild America grant, the Energy Office will continue offering grants through its Municipal Energy Management Program (MEMP). The MEMP program has formed partnerships with many Arizona communities and municipalities in an effort to make energy efficient improvements in their buildings. Bullhead City recently completed a major energy efficiency project that is expected to save the city more than \$100,000 a year in energy costs and operation and maintenance expenses. The project was funded in part by a Municipal Energy Management Program (MEMP) grant from the Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office as part of its Rebuild America program.

Finally, the Energy Office received \$657,000 for its ongoing programs that address renewable energy and energy efficiency in state buildings, as well as the residential and commercial sectors.

The Arizona Energy Office, which serves a vital role in the state's commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy, has operated for the past decade without state funding. "Since 1992 the entire budget has come from Oil Overcharge funds, federal grants and local partnerships," said Craig Marks, Director of the Energy Office.

For more information on state energy programs, visit the Arizona Department of Commerce web site at www.azcommerce.com