

Attachment D

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy for Units of Local Governments & Indian Tribes

Grantee: Brazoria County Date: 06/18/2009
DUNS #: 040341430 Program Contact e-mail: _____

- 1. Describe your government's proposed Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. Provide a concise summary of your measurable goals and objectives, which should be aligned with the defined purposes and eligible activities of the EECBG Program. These goals and objectives should be comprehensive and maximize benefits community-wide. Provide a schedule or timetable for major milestones. If your government has an existing energy, climate, or other related strategy please describe how these strategies relate to each other.**

Brazoria County plans to use EECBG funds to implement energy conservation measures following the Energy Management Program Report that the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) prepared on December 2008 after performing energy audits to the County's facilities. The energy audit specifically identified the energy improvements and operational changes recommended for all county-owned buildings. In particular the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant will be used primarily for building retrofits for two of the facilities mentioned in the SECO report: the Courthouse and the Detention Center Building. These two projects offer the largest total energy reduction of the projects identified in the SECO report. The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program will therefore align with the DOE eligible activity: Energy Efficiency Retrofits.

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program has an integrated goal of achieving increased energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, and reduce energy cost through efficiency improvements in existing buildings. An objective of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program is to reduce energy consumption by 42,950 million source BTU, GHG emissions by 2100 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent, while creating 22 jobs (based on DOE benefits calculator). With EECBG funding, Brazoria County will move forward with the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program to implement the Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) proposed in the SECO report (energy audit) for the abovementioned buildings. After Texas Senate Bill 12 was adopted in September 2007, requiring local municipalities to adopt a goal to reduce electric consumption by 5% each year for six years, Brazoria County set a energy reduction goal of ##MW by 2013. Brazoria County's Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program will help this goal by reducing electricity use by ##% from 2007 consumption totals. The county will also use the benchmark energy usage in county facilities before improvements are made, as found on the SECO report. By the use of the EPA's free Portfolio Manager benchmarking tool (or similar), the resulting data will be compared with the energy consumption calculated as a result of the energy improvements. Benchmarking will be complete by June 2010.

A second objective is to use EECBG funds to engage a consultant by August 2009, pending approval of the EECBG funding, to provide Program Management of both projects, track & report on the funding

spending, as well as provide engineering services for the required improvements. The consultant will also develop a web page that will track improvements and the resulting savings over time for public awareness. Brazoria County intends to regularly maintain and update this webpage tool, which will be made public by December 2009.

- 2. Describe your government's proposed implementation plan for the use of EECBG Program funds to assist you in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the strategy describe in question #1. Your description should include a summary of the activities submitted on your activity worksheets, and how each activity supports one or more of your strategy's goals/objectives.**

Brazoria County will use EECBG program funds to provide upfront capital for the energy efficiency strategies outlined in the energy audit to achieve reduction in electricity use. This work will qualify under the eligible activity Energy Efficiency Retrofits. Each of the following capital retrofit activities relates directly to reducing energy consumption, providing 42,950 million source BTU savings and 2100 metric tons of CO2 equivalent GHG reductions. Potential measures that may be implemented include, but are not limited to, the following:

Project 1: Building Retrofits to Brazoria County Courthouse

- Weatherproof or replace windows
- Replace HVAC System
- Upgrade Energy Management System (EMS) to Direct Digital Controls (DDC)
- Replace damaged portions of roof
- Install Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)
- Building HVAC System Commissioning
- T12 to T18 Lighting Retrofit

Project 2: Building Retrofits to Brazoria County Detention Center

- Replace HVAC System
- Upgrade Energy Management System (EMS)
- Building HVAC System Commissioning
- T12 to T18 Lighting Retrofit

Besides reducing energy costs, these improvements will enhance occupant comfort; reduce deferred maintenance; decrease the need for capital dollars; replace banned refrigerants with environmentally friendly coolants; and lower the number of hot and cold service calls in these facilities.

3. Describe how your government is taking into account the proposed implementation plans and activities for use of funds by adjacent units of local government that are grant recipients under the Program (response not mandatory for Indian Tribes).

Brazoria County is a member of the COGEER which has convened meetings and held planning workshops for elected officials and staff for the purpose of setting regional energy reduction goals. As a result, participating governments, in partnership with the local utility, have set an energy reduction goal of ##MW by 20##. In addition, these partners will maximize the value of energy efficiency projects to be realized in the region through cost sharing and the development of best management practices. All participating local governments, including ## municipalities and the county, have undergone the detailed energy audit process and plan to implement improvements along the same timeframe. The COGEER framework will allow participating governments to share lessons learned and best practices with each other.

4. Describe how your government will coordinate and share information with the state in which you are located regarding activities carried out with grant funds to maximize energy efficiency and conservation benefits (response not mandatory for Indian Tribes).

The State of Texas, through the State Comptroller's Office, has created a website to track stimulus funding in TX (<http://www.window.state.tx.us/>). Brazoria County will present a monthly progress summary to the State that will indicate the status of the activities as well as monies spent to date. Brazoria will follow any additional reporting guidelines developed by the State and/or the Department of Energy. In addition, Brazoria County will have its own website where the progress of the EECBG activities will be displayed.

5. Describe how this plan has been designed to ensure that it sustains benefits beyond the EECBG funding period.

The County desires to reduce energy consumption as a long term goal. Energy reductions and cost savings associated with ECMs will sustain over the lifetime of the installed equipment, with added assurance as a result of Brazoria County's regular maintenance and operations schedule and plan for annual checkups to ensure that all equipment performs optimally. The County will track, measure, and verify savings through the new EMS which will provide a solid managerial platform for future energy efficiency building initiatives as the county continues to grow.

Sustained benefits will also result from the installation of EMS software and equipment that provides centralized real-time energy tracking to quickly identify changes in energy use patterns that could mean mechanical failure or miscalibration. EMS software offers the benefits of open architecture and combines environmental controls with facility and energy management features into a low cost and easy to use solution to track operations and savings-- all of which maximizes the benefits of energy efficiency equipment upgrades over the short and long term. Besides reducing energy costs, these improvements will enhance occupant comfort; reduce deferred maintenance; and decrease the need for community capital dollars.

- 6. The President has made it clear that every taxpayer dollar spent on our economic recovery must be subject to unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability. Describe the auditing or monitoring procedures currently in place or that will be in place (by what date), to ensure funds are used for authorized purposes and every step is taken to prevent instances of fraud, waste, error, and abuse.**

Brazoria County commits that it will account judiciously for every dollar spent on this request for EECBG. There are many safeguards for protecting the public's funds in Brazoria County:

- Brazoria County has several levels of internal control procedures and annual single audit procedures that help to ensure transparency and accountability on all County grants. Internal administrative procedures provide for creation of individual grant award budgets within the County's Special Revenue Grants Fund that reflect approved budgetary plans for the use of grant funds and track/report actual expenditures in comparison with this budget.
- The County's procurement of goods and services requires independent bidding awards and Council approval for expenditures in excess of \$15,000. County administrative procedures also provide for monitoring of grant reporting requirements by respective County operating Departments supplemented with assistance from the Finance Department.
- The County performs an annual audit of its financial reports as required by the State of Texas.