

**Project Update
Background Document**

Improving Energy Efficiency in the Residential, Commercial, and Municipal Buildings

Areas of Focus:

- Energy Technician Training and Certification
- Energy Audits
- Energy Education and Outreach
- Innovative Financing of Energy Improvements

Issues/Outcomes Tracked:

- Role as Core Near Term Strategy for Meeting Climate Change Goals
- Opportunities Related to Development and Expansion of State-Funded Weatherization and Home Performance with Energy Star Programs
- Role as Strategy in Recent Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Applications
- Aligning Resources to Take Advantage of New Sources of Program Financing
- Ramping Up Programs Quickly to Achieve Results

Recent Activities/Outcome:

Focus	Activity	Outcome	Possible Next Step
Energy Technician Training And Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination meetings with State Energy Offices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •States gearing up new training curricula. •Targeting Department of Labor funding for workforce development. •Train-the-Trainers program underway. •Harmonizing low-income weatherization and market rate training. •New weatherization/training centers planned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regional Statement of Consensus on certification standards. •Promote training programs •Provide information on training and certification assets in the region. •Possible regional EECBG competitive grant application.
Energy Audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with State and Local Energy Managers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Energy audits a key strategy identified in most local government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Promote energy audits. •Possible regional

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tracking EECBG Applications. 	<p>EECBG applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Strong linkage to training and certification needs. 	<p>EECBG competitive grant application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Buy down cost of energy audits.
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with State, Local, and Utility Program Leads. •Staff recommendations for potential regional models. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Variety of new outreach messaging campaigns underway or under development. •Utilities playing a significant role. •State mandates such as Empower Maryland are important drivers. •Focus on energy and cost savings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to conduct peer collaboration. •Explore potential for coordinating messaging at the regional level. •Seek funding for regional campaign.
Innovative Financing of Energy Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Research on best practices and programs under development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Home energy audits and cost-effectiveness analysis are core components. •Need large number of participants to be cost effective. •Variety of ways to structure program. •Programs being considered in Arlington and Montgomery Counties. •Possible new models being developed in Annapolis and Charlottesville area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to track developments of local programs. •Assist local governments establish new programs. •Consider larger regional collaboration/fund.

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