

# Palm Beach County Economic Development Office



Spring 2011 Newsletter  
Special Energy Issue



## Department of Energy Program

Since 2009, Palm Beach County's Economic Development Office has been making the most of Federal stimulus dollars by administering a \$6.5 Million dollar grant from the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program.

## A Cleaner and *Greener* Palm Beach County

This grant is allowing Palm Beach County to support its energy efficiency and conservation strategies by implementing 12 energy related projects on publicly owned facilities county-wide. Grant highlights are as follows:

- Local jobs have been created/retained as a result of this grant
- Metric tons of CO2 emissions have been reduced/eliminated
- Grant projects will be saving the County tens of thousands of dollars a year, and include the installation of energy efficient sports lighting at four heavily used county parks, a new HVAC system for the Emergency Operations Center, a state-of-the-art methane recovery system at the Southern Region Water Reclamation Facility and traffic signal synchronization improvements to reduce idle time and CO2 emission at 77 local intersections.
- A solar power retrofit of the Cooperative Extension Service main exhibit hall at Mounts Botanical Garden was recently completed. It features a real-time solar monitoring system that provides continually updated data on the performance of the system and resulting energy and environmental savings.
- Projects also include a Revolving Energy loan fund and a competitive grant program that has funded the installation of solar panels on a new Gold LEED building on the Glades campus of Palm Beach State College and provided grants to the PBC Tax Collector and five local EECBG non-entitlement cities in Palm Beach County to conduct energy efficiency retrofits on their public buildings.

*Project updates and more information can be found on pages 4 & 5*

ACT LOCALLY



# Retrofit Your Business!

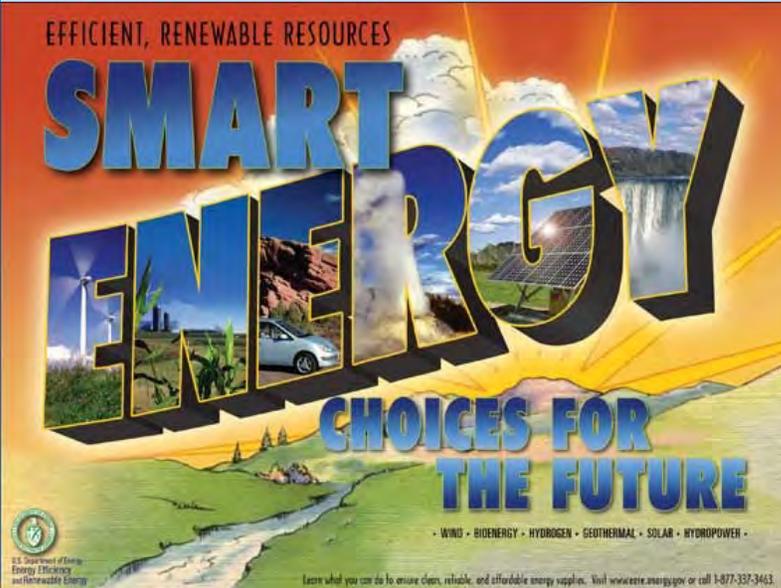
The Economic Development Office is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for Palm Beach County's Revolving Energy Fund Loan Program. The Program offers low interest, fixed rate, long-term loans for local businesses to reduce the cost of doing business by implementing energy saving building retrofits and/or renewable energy projects.

## The Revolving Loan Fund Program:

is a financing tool under the EECBG program authorized by the U.S. Department of Energy to promote energy savings and efficiency.

There is \$1.1 Million available in the loan pool & loans can range from \$15,000 to \$150,000.

EDO is administering the EECBG program and created the Revolving Energy Fund to assist private, for-profit businesses with projects involving the renovation or construction of their commercial or industrial buildings.



## Revolving Loan Fund:

Potential building retrofit projects include the installation of: renewable energy products, including solar, Energy Star rated appliances and materials, energy efficient lighting, doors, windows, plumbing and insulation materials, HVAC systems, cool roofs, etc.

The commercial building retrofits will demonstrate a high rate of return on energy-saving improvements and achieve significant long-term benefits for Palm Beach County as a whole including the creation and retention of local jobs.

More information is available on the EDO homepage: [www.pbcgov.org/edo](http://www.pbcgov.org/edo)

## Palm Beach County Recognized for its Sustainability Collaborative

Palm Beach County was recently highlighted on the Department of Energy's (DOE) Technical Assistance Program website with an article entitled "Palm Beach County & Cities Band Together to Exchange Ideas and Save on Project Costs."

The PBC Economic Development Office established the *County and Cities Sustainability Collaborative* to bring the County and PBC municipalities together to share best practices and lessons learned regarding their Department of Energy EECBG programs.



As the County's and City's projects have progressed, the EDO continues to evolve this collaborative effort



to bring in outside experts and to continue to discuss challenges and solutions facing local government practitioners as they implement energy efficiency policies and programs within their jurisdictions.

The DOE chose to highlight the collaborative effort to show the value of learning from other local governments through peer exchange and collaboration as a model for EECBG recipients nationwide. PBC Commission Chair, Karen Marcus, said, "We hope that other local governments will follow our lead to establish networks where clean energy information and best practices can be shared with our regional peers."

**SAVE THE DATE May 17 & 18, 2011**

## **2011 Florida Green, Energy & Climate Conference at the PBC Convention Center**

The PBC Economic Development Office, Environmental Resources Management Department and County Administration have been busy putting together a special panel for this exciting upcoming conference. The panel, ***Global Climate Change: Positioning for the Future*** will feature PBC Vice Chair, Commissioner Shelley Vana and Broward County Commissioner Kristin Jacobs along with a host of well known South Florida climate experts and scientists.

The Commissioners will be sharing their experiences as members of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Compact) which represents a joint commitment of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties to partner in mitigating the causes and adapting to the consequences of climate change.

South Florida is one of the most vulnerable regions in the United States to the impacts of climate change, particularly to sea level rise. At the heart of the Compact is the design for an integrated climate action plan that will harmonize emission reduction and adaptation strategies for human health and welfare, natural systems and the regional economy.

[www.floridagreenconference.com](http://www.floridagreenconference.com)

The Florida Green, Energy & Climate Conference is a one-of-a-kind program designed to focus on education and networking. Speakers, intensive sessions, panel discussions and workshops focused on building socially responsible and sustainable enterprises will be combined with opportunities to engage in personal dialogue with leading industry, government, consumer and academic experts.



2011 FLORIDA  
**green, energy & climate**  
CONFERENCE / EXPO

# THINK GLOBALLY

## **Palm Beach County's Commitment**

# ACT LOCALLY



**Palm Beach County government is firmly committed to improving energy efficiency & environmental sustainability for our future generations.**

**Thanks to the federally-funded EECBG program, we are helping to create and retain good-paying local jobs for a cleaner, healthier place for us all to raise our families.**

## EDO's Energy Related Updates Working Towards Sustainability!

### Economic Development Office

This spring the PBC Economic Development Office has had the opportunity to engage in the following energy related activities:

### Block Grants Work! Campaign

The EDO worked with the organization, Climate Communities, in support of their Energy Block Grants Work! campaign. The effort included submitting a letter to President Obama signed by more than 300 city and county elected leaders urging him to include full funding for the DOE's EECBG program in the FY-2012 budget. The Board of County Commissioners approved a Resolution in support of future EECBG funding which was then utilized during the Energy Block Grants Work! Campaign Week.



### ★ Department of Energy (DOE):

EDO was recognized multiple times by the DOE for meeting and exceeding spending obligations set by the DOE through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

EDO was invited to share their collaborative and media efforts during one of the DOE's Peer to Peer Exchange monthly calls between EECBG recipients in four southeastern states, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

### Public Outreach

The EDO created display and marketing materials to join local organizations and businesses in exhibiting at Palm Beach State College's third annual Green Expo. The event was well attended and

PBC's Revolving Energy Loan Fund was featured along with other County projects for public information and outreach.

## Subgrantee Highlight

Commissioner Santamaria joined business and community leaders for the dedication of the first new building built on the Palm Beach State College (PBSC) Belle Glade Campus in 30 years. The County awarded PBSC a grant that allowed them to add solar panels to their newly constructed "green" building which was built entirely to the Gold LEED standards of



the U.S. Green Building Council. The two-story, almost 34,000 square-foot Technical Education Center is expected to provide a much-needed boost in training opportunities in the Glades community, which has been challenged by high unemployment. Commissioner Santamara said, "This new Technical Education Center, with its state-of-the-art sustainability features, will be a valued asset to the entire Glades Community for generations to come."

[www.pbcgov.com/edo](http://www.pbcgov.com/edo)

# Palm Beach County's EECBG Project Updates

## Improving Energy Efficiency & Creating Jobs!

### EECBG Program

The PBC EDO is administering the EECBG program and four County Departments have worked diligently over the past year on five major county projects, with three recently being completed:

#### Facilities Development & Operations (FDO) Dept.

The first project to be completed by FDO was a solar-power retrofit of the **Cooperative Extension Service Exhibit Hall** roof. The photovoltaic array is directly wired to the electrical panel and energy produced is being utilized throughout the complex. As the exhibit hall hosts over 1200 meetings a year, a flat panel display monitor was added to the lobby to serve as a real-time monitoring system. It provides continually updated data on the performance of the system and resulting energy and environmental savings. A quick touch or click reveals environmental offsets for CO2, electrical wattage, gasoline, oil, coal and trees being saved or kept out of the environment through the use of this alternate energy system. The monitor can be accessed anytime via the web at [www.pbcmountssolar.com](http://www.pbcmountssolar.com).



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### FDO, Continued...

As a result of load increases during the years, the two 100 ton chillers previously cooling the **PBC Emergency Operations Center** (EOC) have been replaced with two new 200 ton 'modular' chillers. Previously, areas with high IT equipment density were experiencing elevated temperatures and the system was running in a highly inefficient and ineffective manner. The new system will increase energy efficiency by at least 19% realizing a \$17,000 annual savings in energy costs. The Green House Gas Emissions (GHG) reduced (CO2 Equivalents) will be 89,510 lbs. annually.



#### PBC Parks & Recreation Dept.

Using EECBG dollars, PBC Parks & Recreation Dept. has completed the installation of energy-efficient lighting at three heavily used county parks sports facilities with a fourth currently underway. The existing outdated lighting (over 25 years old) was replaced with **energy efficient green generation lighting** which will result in substantial energy and cost savings to taxpayers. In addition, over the past several years Parks & Rec has worked diligently to improve the lighting systems at seven of the County's athletic facilities. Replacing the lighting systems offers an energy savings of up to 50% over standard systems.

#### PBC Water Utilities Dept.

Following the completion of an investment grade audit, work has begun on a state-of-the-art methane recovery system for the County's Southern Region Water Reclamation Facility. The Digester Biogas Combined Heat and Power Renewable Energy Project will utilize a microturbine to complete the 100% recycling objective for the plant by generating power from digester gas, which is currently burned in a waste gas flare. The microturbine will generate mechanical energy which will be converted to electricity for 100% on-site use. The energy saved will be 200 kilowatts per hour and the GHG Emissions reduced (CO2 Equivalents) will be 1,258 metric tons annually.

The biogas microturbine project will complete the waste reclamation cycle by recycling all waste products generated at the facility. Biogas from the digesters will be captured and combusted to produce electric power. This waste gas-to-energy recapture is an innovative project that demonstrates sustainable use at a wastewater treatment facility.

#### Cooperative Extension Solar Project



#### Engineering & Public Works Dept.

Traffic signal synchronization is under way on multiple major thoroughfares in PBC, which will effectively reduce the amount of time vehicles spend waiting in traffic, thus reducing GHG emissions. PBC Engineering and outside consultants are working on the synchronization of 77 heavily traveled intersections within the County.

# A Cleaner and *Greener* Palm Beach County



## EECBG Competitive Grant Program

As a component of the Department of Energy's EECBG program, the EDO established an innovative and competitive energy grant pool for local governmental agencies to conduct energy efficiency retrofits to their public buildings. The subgrantees were the Towns of Lantana, Haverhill and Ocean Ridge, and the Cities of Atlantis and Greenacres. In addition, the PBC Tax Collector and Palm Beach State College were awarded grants.



### *Subgrantee Highlight* Town of Lantana



The Town of Lantana is utilizing their EECBG PBC grant dollars to renovate/rebuild a 1950's era building behind their Town Hall that will serve as a Police Annex to house their detectives. Lantana was also a recipient of State energy dollars and is utilizing both county and state resources to complete this highly energy efficient building.

Features include:

- Two cisterns that will collect enough rainwater to completely meet the building's landscaping needs;
- A photovoltaic array that is currently powering the entire building and generating enough power to sell back excess to the grid;
- The photovoltaic array panels also serve as shade structures (in gray below);
- CFL energy efficient lighting with special fixtures that reflect the light off of the ceiling making for a more natural lighting experience;
- Decorative slabs made from recycled glass materials; and,
- The building will serve as a demonstration project for events and tours.



As can be seen in the image, the building is not only energy efficient but also quite attractive!

ACT LOCALLY

## About the Palm Beach County Economic Development Office

Palm Beach County's Economic Development Office expands opportunities by fostering relationships through **collaboration & partnerships** with agencies, communities and business assistance organizations, promotes & implements **policy initiatives** for a pro-business environment, and utilizes creative leveraging of **financial resources** that incorporate Federal loan and grant programs, State tax incentive programs, private-sector financing and private capital.

### Economic Development Office

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