



Department of Commerce

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ARRA Energy Efficiency Credit Enhancement (EECE) Program – \$5M

Last Revised: February 2012

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Commerce awarded grants totaling \$4.96 million to six applicants. The awards were expected to support approximately \$50 million in total project expenditures, including lender funds, tax credits, utility incentives, other community funds, and borrower investments. The programs targeted energy efficiency retrofits in both residential and commercial buildings.

- **Avista Utilities**

Award: \$950,000 grant

(Spokane County) Avista provides electricity and natural gas service in eastern Washington. The lending program enhances its existing energy efficiency programs by providing low-cost financing to residential and commercial customers. Avista's lending partners are Numerica Credit Union, Spokane Teachers Credit Union, and SNAP Financial Access. Avista uses the EECE funds as a loss reserve, which compensates the lenders if a borrower fails to repay a loan. Sustainable Resources Inland Northwest, a Spokane nonprofit community development organization, provides marketing and processing support.

- **City of Bellingham**

Award: \$500,000

(Whatcom County) Bellingham uses EECE funds to offer interest rate discounts to property owners who participate in the Whatcom County Community Energy Challenge program (CEC). An essential part of the CEC is to arrange financing solutions for energy efficiency customers and borrowers, allowing them to overcome the first-cost barrier and pay for energy efficiency improvements over time, matching energy cost savings with loan payments. Bellingham's lending partner is Banner Bank.

- **City of Seattle**

Award: \$1,000,000 grant

(King County) The City of Seattle established loan loss reserves for its Community Power Works energy efficiency program. The purpose of the loss reserve is to reduce lenders' risk and encourage them to make more energy efficiency loans. Seattle's lenders are Craft3 (formerly ShoreBank Enterprise Cascadia) and Grow America Fund, Inc. (GAF).



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- **SustainableWorks**

Award: \$960,000 grant

(King and Spokane Counties) SustainableWorks uses EECE funds to lower interest rates for borrowers and to provide a loss reserve fund for its lender, Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union. SustainableWorks has offered the energy efficiency loans as part of a community-based comprehensive retrofit program. In 2012 it also began offering loans to participants in Seattle's Community Power Works program.

- **Thurston County Economic Development Council**

Award: \$500,000 grant

(Thurston County) Thurston EDC and the Thurston Climate Action Team operate a community-based comprehensive energy retrofit program called Thurston Energy. The EECE funds enable Thurston Energy's lending partners to offer substantially lower interest rates to property owners who make energy investments. Thurston Energy's lenders are OBee Credit Union and Generations Credit Union.

- **Washington State Housing Finance Commission**

Award: \$1,000,000 grant

(King County) WSHFC has partnered with MacDonald-Miller Facilities Solutions and Key Bank to offer financing for energy efficiency improvement projects in facilities owned by private, nonprofit institutions, including hospitals, and low income multi-family housing property owners which are eligible for tax-exempt bond financing.