



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES

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First Energy Federal Stimulus Plan Filed

The Idaho Office of Energy Resources (OER) has filed the first of two separate plans for use of federal stimulus dollars. Idaho is eligible for \$28,572,000 from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for use by the state in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) State Energy Program (SEP). The state proposal was submitted by OER on May 12, 2009.

Additionally, the state is eligible to receive \$9,593,500 from the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. This ARRA program provides funding to local units of government to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The OER has established a partnership with Idaho Association of Counties and the Association of Idaho Cities to develop its formal plan. The deadline for the EECBG proposal is June 25, 2009.

The recently filed OER proposal (\$28 million) focuses on energy conservation projects for public schools (K-12), solar panel installations at public schools, renewable energy financing opportunities, and assistance for an energy efficiency technology manufacturer. The OER projects that were included in the plan include:

Solar Panels For Schools - OER will commit \$2,750,000 to launch a pilot program utilizing solar power to reduce energy costs at public schools. This allows schools to displace energy that would otherwise be purchased to service the building. That energy, in turn, can be sold to utilities.

K-12 Energy Efficiency Project - OER will commit \$17,464,693 to energy efficiency upgrades in existing K-12 school buildings.

Renewable Enterprise Zones - OER will commit \$1,500,000 for development of the state's renewable energy resources, including biogas, biomass, wind, geothermal, solar, hydro, and biofuels. OER expects to request additional funding for renewable energy enterprise zones when it files its second funding plan in June.

Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Manufacturing - OER will commit \$5,000,000 for manufacturing of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). A council convened by the Idaho Department of Commerce recently recommended four projects to OER as high priorities for stimulus funding. The Micron LED project was selected by OER as the best proposal to stimulate Idaho's economy while creating an industry that will promote energy efficiency.

"These projects represent a win-win scenario for Idaho," says OER administrator Paul Kjellander. "The energy efficiency and solar projects for schools will have a lasting positive impact on taxpayers who ultimately pay the utility bills."

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Kjellander also said, "The LED manufacturing project and the prospect of developing Idaho's renewable energy resources through the creation of Renewable Energy Enterprise Zones will help demonstrate the innovation and creativity that exists in our state."

The recently filed energy stimulus spending proposal is still subject to U.S. DOE approval. The proposal can be viewed on the OER website at <http://www.energy.idaho.gov>.

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