

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM OF EAST CENTRAL OREGON

Integrating BPA Energy Efficiency
Weatherization Projects with Local
Utilities

July 21, 2015

In the beginning:

- One local partnership existed
- Another two offered minimal rebates
- Lots of paperwork was exchanged
- Limited number of households served due to:
 1. Majority of funding relevant to federal award at agency
 2. Compliance to waiting list requirements attached to federal award

Approach to coordinating new program:

- Boyd Wilson arranged and accompanied CAPECO at visits to two of our remote utilities
- Boyd outlined the new program and encouraged a coordinated effort
- CAPECO outlined Oregon's auditing process
- Addressed the mission to provide weatherization services to eligible households (utilities customer)

- BPA EE projects segregated from using federal funds as waiting list requirements can be established in utility partnership
- Open communication on funding level available for CAPECO to utilize and reciprocated back to the utility if all funds cannot be used

CAPECO's delivery design:

- Produce a list of eligible households to utility
- Utility can refer households and be given preference (once eligibility determined)
- Utility then assesses home to determine if they want to fund the project
 - Drive by assessment of home
 - Ensures that the home meets the threshold of electric heat
 - Allows utility to have control of their funds
 - Eliminates homes with major repairs but retains them on CAPECO's waiting list

Accomplishment:

- Completed two homes with Columbia Power Cooperative
- Completed three homes with Columbia Basin Electric
- CAPECO maintained existing program delivery utilizing all funds issued by Oregon Housing and Community Services
- CAPECO also implemented the new Cascade Gas program during this time period

Pros & Cons

Pros:

Diversified our funding base

Created a greater opportunity for more homes to be weatherized

Expanded our utility partnerships

Created a program to meet utility and agency needs

Cons:

Change of staff at agency and at one utility created confusion

Sharing of reporting requirements was received after first submissions

Lag time from final paperwork submission to utility until receipt of payment for project