



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of January 23, 2010

DATE: January 13, 2010

SUBJECT: Appropriation of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Energy under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the County Manager or designee to accept the County's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).
2. Appropriate \$2,085,100 from the U.S. Department of Energy to the Department of Environmental Services for execution of the County's EECBG projects, as \$1,185,100 for energy efficiency and alternative energy facility improvements (313.43564), \$500,000 for street light and traffic signal improvements (313.43516), and \$400,000 for encouraging efficiency improvements in the private sector (101.40002).

ISSUES: County Board approval is needed to accept and appropriate \$2,085,100 for specified activities. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The County's EECBG application for \$2,085,100 in direct formula grant funds was accepted on December 14, 2009 by the U.S. Department of Energy. The County, as approved by the Board on June 13, 2009, will implement activities to make improvements in County buildings and infrastructure, and provide information and training programs to residents and businesses in Arlington.

BACKGROUND: ARRA of 2009 authorized \$3.2 billion in DOE EECBG funds, and Arlington County received a formula block grant award of \$2,085,100. The purpose of the EECBG Program is to assist eligible entities, including local governments, in creating and implementing strategies to:

- reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and, to the maximum extent practicable, maximizes benefits for local and regional communities;
- reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities; and
- improve energy efficiency in the buildings sector, the transportation sector, and other appropriate sectors.

These core principles complement key elements of the County's Fresh AIRE program.

County Manager: BMD

County Attorney: SJY

Staff: Kelly Zonderwyk, Energy Program Specialist, x 4822, John Morrill, Energy Manager

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DISCUSSION: Buildings and infrastructure are responsible for over two-thirds of County greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, meaningful investments in efficiency improvements will yield significant reductions in the County's energy consumption and therefore greenhouse gas emissions.

The projects and programs that have been accepted by the DOE are:

- county building energy retrofits and installation of solar photovoltaics,
- streetlight and traffic signal retrofits using light-emitting diode (LED) technology, and
- engagement with residential and business sectors.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. There is no local match required. Funds will be obligated within 18 months and spent within 36 months per the requirements of the grant.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: The planned projects would result in reduced countywide greenhouse emissions, to be quantified as the projects are developed and installed. The planned County projects will reduce County government electricity expenditures over the long term. Businesses and residents would also benefit from lower utility bills as a result of implemented energy efficiency retrofits.