



MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY TO RECEIVE \$5.1M ENERGY-RELATED GRANT

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced that the City of Tucson will be receiving \$5.1 million under its Energy and Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The funding will be used by the City to support projects and programs that employ the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy technologies which can be deployed immediately, and which will create good, well-paying local jobs.

As a result of the grant, the City will have resources for the first time that it can dedicate to high-payback, low-cost activities such as energy efficiency home retrofits, transportation efficiency programs, financial incentive programs and enhanced public education programs on energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction. These programs will bring multiple benefits to the community by creating jobs, saving energy, reducing pollution, improving public health and lowering energy bills.

Importantly, funds can be used community wide, not only for government-owned facilities and infrastructure.

Ward 5 City Council Member Steve Leal said “The grant represents a valuable new funding source for the City and the community to use to advance the Green Jobs initiative approved by Mayor and Council just a few weeks ago.”

Taken together, the projects to be supported under this grant will contribute to the strengthening of local neighborhoods and help Tucson become a more sustainable community. The grant represents an exciting opportunity to help homeowners and businesses save money, lower City utility expenses and leverage local government involvement with other energy efficiency resources flowing to the community from the federal stimulus legislation.

The City is moving quickly to develop a strategy for how it will utilize the funding. The strategy will need to be approved by the Mayor and Council as well as the DOE before individual project work can begin. Per the Green Jobs Initiative approved by the Mayor and Council on February 24, 2009, the City’s Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development (OCSD) is coordinating this grant effort for the City.

Information on City activities under the new grant program will be available on the OCSD web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/ocsd as the program develops. If you require materials in accessible format or in a language other than English, call David Schaller, OCSD, at 837-6931.