

Energy Planning & Efficiency Improvements to Save \$\$ for Local Governments

Presentation to LOSRC Board
June 24, 2009

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Why are We Presenting Today?

1. Opportunity to get ARRA funding to design & implement energy improvements in your local government operations to save you \$\$, create jobs & stimulate regional economy (Terry)
2. Opportunity to influence the energy futures of your overall communities (Jim)
3. Clean energy & alternative fuels is a CEDS Tier 1 priority
4. Board approval to pursue these opportunities using some of our Rural Center clean energy funding
 - Consent Agenda memo “EECBG Grant Assistance to Local Governments”

Stimulus Funding for Local Government Energy Improvements

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- NC State Energy Office to receive:
 1. State Energy Program: \$75.9 million for Six focus areas:
 - Small business & industry
 - Green workforce
 - **Energy efficiency in local & state government**
 - Residential efficiency & renewable energy
 - Energy Investment Revolving Loan Fund
 - \$9 million of this is for Public Facilities

Source: NC State Energy Office June 4, 2009 PPT & June 16, 2009 workshop

Stimulus Funding for Local Government Energy Improvements, cont'd.

2. Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG): \$58 million to NC cities and counties
 - Entitlement cities & counties
 - Asheville \$804,700
 - Buncombe County \$624,800
 - Non-entitlement cities, towns, counties
 - \$450,000 for technical assistance
 - \$7.2 million for energy efficiency in any public building
 - \$8.0 million for K-12, Community Colleges & Public Authorities

Source: NC State Energy Office June 4, 2009 PPT & June 16, 2009 workshop

EECBG Criteria for Non-entitlement Local Governments

(all LOSRC members except City of Asheville
& Buncombe County)

- Grants are competitive
- Strategic energy plan required
 - Brief plan for local government buildings, using SEO template
- Energy saved or renewable energy created
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduced
- Jobs created
- 10 million Btu of reductions per \$1000 of investment
- No match required (but leveraging encouraged)

EECBG Criteria for Non-entitlement Local Governments, cont'd.

(all LOSRC members except City of Asheville
& Buncombe County)

- Economically distressed areas advantaged
- Aggregated (multi-jurisdictional) proposals encouraged
- Project sustainability after EECBG grant period
- Grantee must monitor energy use & report

EECBG Timeline for Non-Entitlement Local Governments

- SEO Strategic Energy Planning workshops – June 9-29, 2009
- LOSRC Workshop for local governments if interest is sufficient – late July 2009
- RFP for EECBG funding of energy projects released in August 2009
- Grant applications due in October 2009
- Grants awarded in November 2009
- Stringent ARRA grant administration, reporting and monitoring requirements
- Funds released by USDOE in two phases (50% in phase 1, 50% in phase 2)

We Can Help

- WRP & LOSRC staff available to assist with:
 - Energy consumption data compilation
 - Development of strategic energy plans
 - Energy assessment of facilities
 - EECBG project development
 - EECBG grant writing assistance
 - Post-award project management & grant administration assistance

Actions for Board Members

(all LOSRC members except City of Asheville & Buncombe County)

- Show this handout to your manager/administrator & board
- LOSRC will ask your manager/administrator if your unit is interested in EECBG workshop
- Watch for LOSRC workshop invitation
- Send your manager, facilities staff & interested governing board members to workshop
- Consider/discuss partnerships
 - County-municipal
 - Two or more counties
 - Two or more towns

The Bigger Picture: Proposed Energy Planning Approach

- Short Term (next 5 months)
 - Strategic Energy Plan as required by the SEO, with WRP assistance (previous slides)
 - EECBG project development & grant application, with WRP assistance
 - Focus on local government facilities
 - Build in items beyond base level to make proposals competitive

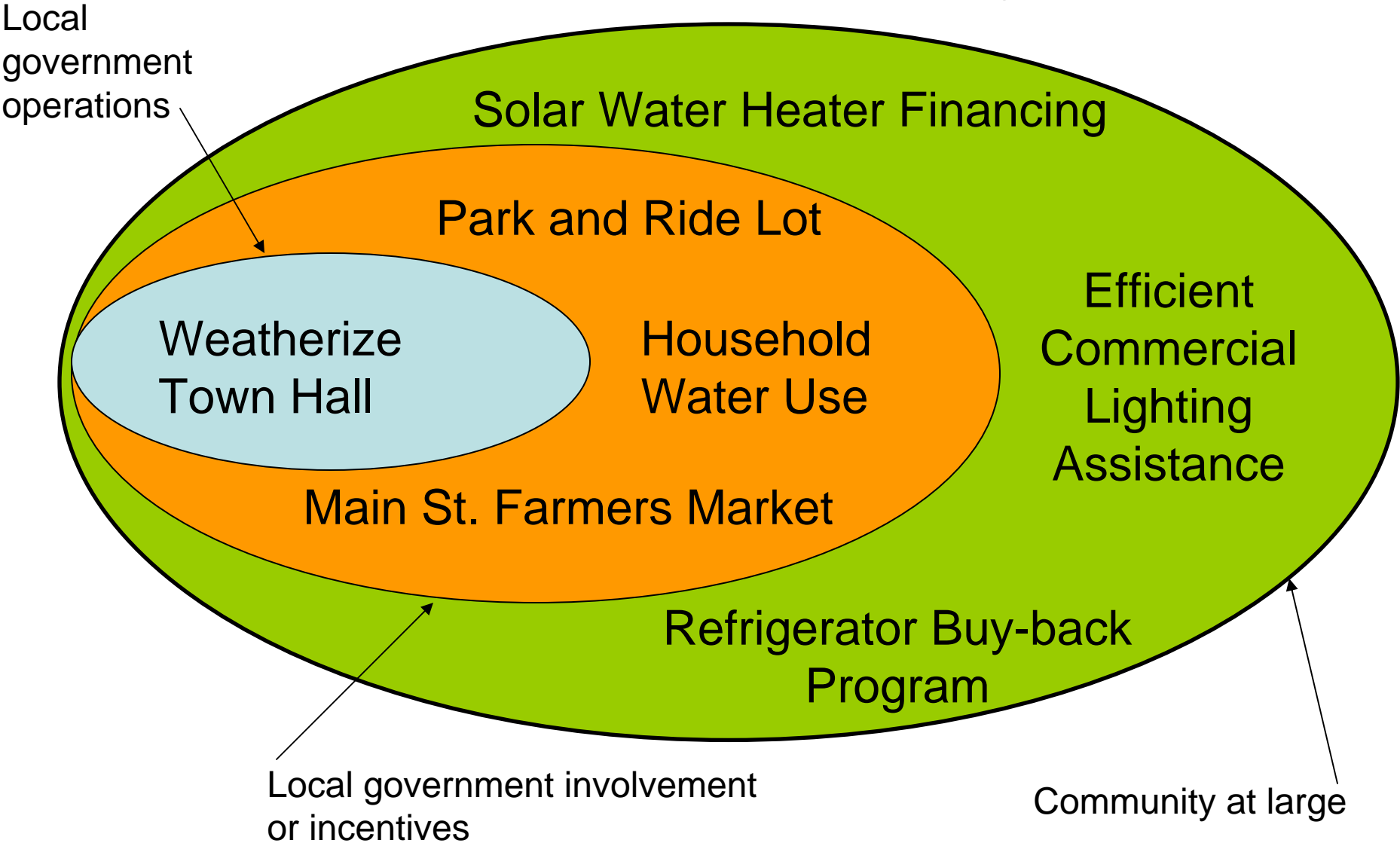
The Bigger Picture: Proposed Energy Planning Approach, cont'd.

- Longer Term
 - Develop community-wide energy plan, with LOSRC assistance
 - Use EECBG project savings to invest in community-wide energy improvements
 - Use one year's savings to invest in the next year's projects
 - Watch for additional ARRA & other grant opportunities

Why? Regional Energy Resilience

- Save \$\$: **A two year payback means a 50% return on the investment of tax dollars each year for as long as the improvement lasts**
- Plug economic leaks – keep dollars here
- Create local jobs – energy source matters
- Use energy more efficiently
- Move toward local sources of energy & fuels supply
- Avoid future disruptions like gasoline outages
- Build local prosperity
- Take control of our energy future

Cost-effective Solutions at Town Hall and Beyond



Main Street Farmers Market

- Cost – low cost to no cost. Some cities help organize and promote the market.
- Buying local reduces the energy/fuel inputs to the food we purchase (reduced shipping distance)
- Keeps food dollars circulating in the community, buying farm supplies, haircuts, hardware and ... paying taxes
- Brings customers to other businesses to enhance sales tax revenues
- Brings excitement to downtown and for visitors

Park and Ride Lot “Payback”

- Cost – for land and paving. Public land may exist and NC DOT may be able to pave
- If 25 solo drivers join carpools for a 40 mile round trip, the savings are about \$125,000 per year
- If half that amount is spent locally, the sales tax is \$4100 each year
- Also a 2-4 times “multiplier” effect in the local economy

Solar Hot Water Heating

- Proven technology, federal & state tax credits & free fuel = great Return on Investment
- A utility can finance installation on residences and charge residents a monthly fee (which will be covered by reduced energy bills)
- In a few years the resident will pay off the loan and the fee disappears
- The energy savings cycle in the community as long as the solar panels last
- Solar panels make home ownership more affordable though lower utility bills

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