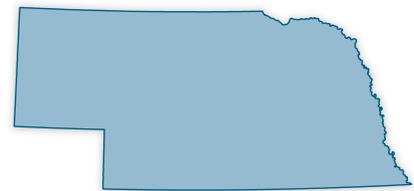




Department of Energy Recovery Act State Memos

Nebraska



For questions about DOE's Recovery Act activities, please contact the DOE Recovery Act Clearinghouse:
1-888-DOE-RCVY (888-363-7289), Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time
<https://recoveryclearinghouse.energy.gov/contactUs.htm>.

All numbers and projects listed as of June 1, 2010

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RECOVERY ACT SUCCESS STORIES – ENERGY EMPOWERS

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • NEBRASKA RECOVERY ACT SNAPSHOT

Funding for selected DOE projects: \$112.5 million

DOE Recovery Act projects in Nebraska: 38

Clean energy tax credits and grants: 3

For total Recovery Act jobs numbers in Nebraska go to www.recovery.gov

Nebraska has substantial natural resources, including oil, coal, wind, and hydroelectric power. The **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)** is making a meaningful down payment on the nation's energy and environmental future. The Recovery Act investments in Nebraska are supporting a broad range of clean energy projects, from weatherization and retrofits to the smart grid and wind power. Through these investments, Nebraska's businesses, non-profits, and local governments are creating quality jobs today and positioning Nebraska to play an important role in the new energy economy of the future.

EXAMPLES OF NEBRASKA FORMULA GRANTS

Program	State Energy Program	Weatherization Assistance Program	Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants	Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program
Award (in millions)	\$30.9	\$41.6	\$19.2	\$1.7
	The Nebraska Energy Office has received \$30.9 million in State Energy Program funds to invest in state-level energy efficiency and renewable energy priorities.	The State of Nebraska has received \$41.6 million in Weatherization Assistance Program funds to scale-up existing weatherization efforts in the state, creating jobs, reducing carbon emissions, and saving money for Nebraska's low-income families. Over the course of the Recovery Act, Nebraska expects to weatherize approximately 4,000 homes. The program also includes workforce training and education as part of the state's efforts to develop a green workforce.	Twenty-seven communities in Nebraska received a total of \$19.2 million for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) to develop, promote, implement, and manage localized energy efficiency programs.	The Nebraska Energy Office has received \$1.7 million for the Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program, which offers consumer rebates for purchasing certain ENERGY STAR® appliances. These energy efficient appliances reduce energy use and save money for families, while helping the environment and supporting the local economy.

EXAMPLES OF NEBRASKA COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND TAX CREDITS

Award	\$28.4 million	\$10 million	\$5.1 million	\$5 million	\$1.9 million
	Novozymes Blair, Inc. , in Blair, was awarded a clean energy manufacturing tax credit for \$28.4 million . The funds will be used to operate a new manufacturing facility to produce the next generation of wind turbine blades.	As part of the BetterBuildings program, the cities of Omaha and Lincoln have been awarded \$10 million to achieve a sustainable retrofit marketplace through workforce development, green technology and entrepreneurship, consumer information, financial mechanisms, neighborhood advocacy, and market strategy.	TPI Composites, Inc. , in Grand Island, was awarded a clean energy manufacturing tax credit for \$5.1 million . TPI will operate a new manufacturing facility to produce the next generation of wind turbine blades.	The District Energy Corporation in Lincoln was awarded \$5 million for Ground Source Heat Pumps (GHP) . The corporation will build a GHP heating and cooling system at an adult detention facility.	Cunning County Public Power District has been awarded \$1.9 million under the Smart Grid Investment Grant program to enable smart grid distribution functions on the electrical grid, including installing communications infrastructure and deploying control software for the Cuming Country and Stanton County Public Power District distribution systems.

Funding Allocation Table (Figure 1)

Total dollar amounts in this document are accurate as of June 1, 2010. Please note that Recovery Act Programs are ongoing and the dollar amounts are subject to change. Recipient locations are based on project sites rather than recipients' headquarters locations.

Recovery Act Pillar	Flagship Program Names & Funding Type ¹	Number of Selections	Selected Amount (in millions) ²
Energy Efficiency	<i>Weatherization Assistance Program (F)</i>	1	\$41.6
	<i>State Energy Program (F)</i>	1	\$30.9
	<i>Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (F)</i>	27	\$19.2
	<i>BetterBuildings (CM)</i>	1	\$10.0
	<i>Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate (F)</i>	1	\$1.7
	<i>Additional Programs (CM & C)</i>	1	\$5.0
	TOTAL Energy Efficiency		32
Renewable Energy	<i>Wind (CM)</i>	1	\$0.4
	TOTAL Renewable Energy	1	\$0.4
Electric Grid	<i>Smart Grid Investment and Demonstrations Project (CM)³</i>	2	\$2.3
	<i>State and Local Energy Assurance and Regulatory Assistance (F)</i>	1	\$0.4
	TOTAL Electric Grid	3	\$2.7
Transportation	<i>Advanced Fuels (CM)</i>	1	\$0.2
	TOTAL Transportation	1	\$0.2
Science and Innovation	<i>Additional Programs</i>	1	\$0.8
	TOTAL Science and Innovation	1	\$0.8
TOTAL - DOE Programs⁴		38	\$112.5
Tax Credits/ Payments ⁵	<i>Payments for Renewable Energy Generation in Lieu of Tax Credits (1603)</i>	1	\$0.0
	<i>Clean Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits (48C)</i>	2	\$33.5
	TOTAL Tax Incentives	3	\$33.5
TOTAL - DOE/Treasury + DOE		41	\$146.0
¹ F=Formula Grant, CM=Competitive Grant, C=Contract			
² "Selected" indicates DOE has selected a potential funding recipient, which begins the process of negotiating an agreement. This does not necessarily indicate that a final agreement has been reached.			
³ Projects may cross state boundaries, signifies HQ location.			
⁴ Total does not include administrative funds.			
⁵ Jointly administered by DOE and the U.S. Department of Treasury.			

ENERGY EFFICIENCY – 32 projects totaling \$108.4 million

Helping millions of American families cut utility bills by making homes and appliances more energy efficient, expanding the home efficiency industry in sales and manufacturing. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/energyefficiency.htm>.

Award(s): \$41.6 million, Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Location: Statewide

Nebraska received \$41.6 million in Weatherization Assistance Program funds to scale-up existing weatherization efforts in the state, creating jobs, reducing carbon emissions and saving money for Nebraska's low-income families. Over the course of the Recovery Act, Nebraska expects to weatherize approximately 4,000 homes.

Award(s): \$30.9 million, State Energy Program (SEP)

Location: Statewide

The Nebraska Energy Office received \$30.9 million in State Energy Program funds to invest in state-level energy efficiency and renewable energy priorities. The Nebraska SEP is reducing energy consumption, increasing energy security, providing consumer information on energy efficiency and renewable energy and creating jobs through incentives for energy efficiency measures in residential, commercial and industrial sectors. Programs for the commercial and industrial sector are targeting large energy users and providing financial assistance through low-interest loans. The state also is also increasing energy efficiency in residential and commercial sectors by updating and enforcing building energy codes and expanding energy efficiency training. Regarding training, Nebraska is using SEP Recovery Act funds to establish a renewable energy program, developing a qualified workforce to the construct, install and repair renewable energy systems.

Award(s): 27 totaling \$19.2 million, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)

Location: Statewide

Recipient: Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Santee Sioux Nation, Sarpy County, Lincoln, Nebraska State Energy Office, Omaha, Douglas County, Gage County, Dakota County, Saunders County, Dawson County, Scotts Bluff County, Cass County, Platte County, Lancaster County, Norfolk, Hastings, Papillion, Bellevue, Kearney, North Platte, Fremont, Grand Island, Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

Twenty-seven communities in Nebraska received a total of \$19.2 million for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants Program (EECBG) to develop, promote, implement and manage localized energy efficiency programs. Two of these grants, totaling \$70,000, are shared by Nebraska and at least one other state.

This project is assisting states, U.S. territories, Indian tribes, counties and cities in the development, promotion, implementation and management of localized energy efficiency programs through individual program grants. The project is funding programs that reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable, maximizes cost savings, reduces the total energy use of the eligible entities and improves energy efficiency in the transportation, building and other appropriate sectors.

Award(s): \$1.7 million, Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Programs

Location: Statewide

The Nebraska Energy Office received \$1.7 million for the Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program, which offers consumer rebates for purchasing certain ENERGY STAR® appliances. These energy efficient appliances reduce energy use, save money for families, help the environment and support the local economy.

This project provides federal support for state-level rebate programs for residential ENERGY STAR appliance purchases by paying up to 50 percent of the administration costs of establishing and executing the rebate program. Though states and territories are determining which appliances may apply, eligible appliances typically include clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, room air conditioners and water heaters.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$10 million, BetterBuildings

Location: Omaha and Lincoln

As part of the BetterBuildings program, the cities of Omaha and Lincoln received \$10 million to achieve a sustainable retrofit marketplace through workforce development, green technology and entrepreneurship, consumer information, financial mechanisms, neighborhood advocacy and market strategy.

Targeting “Green Zones” in Omaha and Lincoln, the program is aggregating similar buildings for projects and lowering overhead costs. The program also includes public education through work with community organizations. Under the program, each retrofitted building will receive a new advanced smart meter to ensure continued energy savings.

Award(s): \$5 million, Ground Source Heat Pumps

Location: Lincoln

The District Energy Corporation in Lincoln received \$5 million for Ground Source Heat Pumps (GHP). The corporation will build a GHP heating and cooling system at an adult detention facility.

RENEWABLE ENERGY – 4 projects totaling \$33.9 million

Developing the clean renewable resources in order to double our supply of renewable energy and boost domestic renewable manufacturing capacity. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/renewableenergy.htm>.

Award(s): \$6,000 from DOE / Treasury, 1603 Payments for Renewable Energy Generation

Location: Alda

*For current number of 1603 awards, see the weekly update at <http://www.treas.gov/recovery/1603.shtml>

Husker Wind Power, Inc., in Alda received \$6,000 for a wind project.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$33.5 million from DOE / Treasury, Clean Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit (48C)

Location: Blair, Grand Island

- **Novozymes Blair, Inc., Blair - \$28.4 million**
Novozymes Blair, Inc., in Blair received \$28.4 million to operate a new manufacturing facility to produce the next generation of wind turbine blades.
- **TPI Composites, Inc., Grand Island - \$5.1 million**
TPI Composites, Inc., in Grand Island received \$5.1 million to operate a new manufacturing facility to produce the next generation of wind turbine blades.

Award(s): \$380,000, Wind Energy Technology R&D and Testing

Location: Lincoln

The University of Nebraska in Lincoln received \$380,000 to develop online, nonintrusive condition monitoring and fault detection for wind turbines.

MODERNIZING THE ELECTRIC GRID – 3 projects totaling \$2.7 million

Harnessing clean energy sources and integrating them onto a modernized electric grid, while giving consumers better choices and more control over their energy use. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/smartgrid.htm>.

Award(s): \$364,000, Enhancing State and Local Governments' Energy Assurance

Location: Lincoln

This project is focusing on building regional energy assurance capabilities by enhancing inter- and intra-state coordination and cooperation during energy emergencies. This project is funding programs to update and develop State Energy Assurance Plans that incorporate new energy portfolios such as wind, renewables and biofuels. It is also funding programs in cities to update and develop Energy Assurance Plans within local areas. The two sets of funding are being used to hire and re-train staff, building in-house expertise in Smart Grid technologies, critical energy infrastructure interdependencies and cyber-security.

Award(s): 2 totaling \$2.3 million, Smart Grid Investment Grant Program (EISA 1306)

Location: Statewide

- **Cunning County Public Power District - \$1.9 million**
Cunning County Public Power District received \$1.9 million under the Smart Grid Investment Grant program to enable Smart Grid distribution functions on the electrical grid, including installing communications infrastructure and deploying control software for the Cuming Country and Stanton County Public Power District distribution systems.
- **Stanton County Public Power District - \$397,000**
This project involves extending the existing AMI system to all metering points in the city of Stanton and the rural portion of the service area by installing 2,400 smart meters associated computer software and hardware and data collection repeat.

TRANSPORTATION – 1 project totaling \$200,000

Investing in a new generation of advanced fuels and vehicles to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and revitalize domestic manufacturing. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/vehicles.htm>.

Award(s): \$200,000, Investigation of Intermediate Ethanol Blends, Optimization of E-85 Engines and Development of Transportation Infrastructure

Location: Omaha

Growth Energy in Omaha received \$200,000 to support the expansion of fueling infrastructure for ethanol blends.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION – 1 project totaling \$750,000

Renewing our commitment to science and innovation to ensure global competitiveness in the future. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/innovation.htm>.

Award(s): \$750,000, Energy Sciences Fellowships and Early Career Awards

Location: Lincoln

The University of Nebraska received \$750,000 to support research on ultrafast electron diffraction from aligned molecules.

ENERGYEMPOWERS.GOV

Recovery Act Success Stories

Energy Empowers is a U.S. Department of Energy clean energy information service. Our team produces stories featuring the people and businesses that are fueling the energy transformation and economic recovery in America. For more stories from your state, go to energyempowers.gov/Nebraska



Novozymes was awarded a \$28.4 million tax credit to build an enzyme facility in Blair, Neb. | Photo courtesy of Novozymes

BLAIR

Biofuels company builds new facility in Nebraska

The biofuels company Novozymes received a \$28.4 million tax credit under the Recovery Act for the construction of a new facility in Blair, Neb., that produces enzymes to turn waste into fuel. The project, sparked by the increasing demand for cellulosic fuel, will create 100 green jobs and reduce the company's transportation costs and carbon footprint.

The facility will manufacture the company's "enzyme cocktail," which converts cellulose in various feedstocks, waste paper and cardboard, wood chips, and corn into simple sugars that are then fermented into biofuels.

Fred Reikowsky, general manager of the new plant, says the Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit demonstrates the Department of Energy's confidence in the company's enzyme technology to further commercialization of advanced biofuels, a resource that's becoming popular in the United States.

"The role of public sector support is to provide a base for investor confidence as a new technology moves through the commercialization and deployment phases," Fred says. "The incentives are a needed component in getting the industry to a scale that allows independent growth and investment."

Demand for biofuels has soared over the last 10 years and is expected to more than double between 2010 and 2020, according to a recent global market analysis by GlobalData. Supply for the resource has also risen. Under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the Renewable Fuel Standard program increased the volume of renewable fuel required to be blended into transportation fuel from 9 billion gallons in 2008 to 36 billion gallons by 2022.

The main purpose of the new facility is to support the biofuels market and eventually compete in the energy industry, Fred says. "I think the partners we are working with, using our enzymes, can get the cost [of advanced biofuels] down below \$2 a gallon," he says.

The company seeks to hire locally to fill the 100 green jobs. The

facility will employ chemical and electrical engineers, information technology specialists, and equipment operators to run the plant.

Novozymes broke ground in 2009 and expects the new building, which will be situated next to their blending facility to be completed in 2012. Once it's built, the company will produce enzymes closer to its customers, minimizing shipping and resulting in lower energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

OMAHA

Nebraska appliance rebate program opens

Nearly 500 people lined up outside of Omaha's Nebraska Furniture Mart on July 6, waiting to get ENERGY STAR washing machines, dishwashers and refrigerators on the first day of Nebraska's Appliance Rebate Program.

Inside the store, Jim McGinn, sales manager for appliances, and staff went over last minute details about the Nebraska Appliance Rebate Program. Armed with loads of information about ENERGY STAR appliances, the staff opened the store two hours early to start handling the crowds.

"We're use to big crowds on certain days throughout the year," says McGinn. "This one came big, and lasted big. It's been really successful for us."

Nebraska Furniture Mart is one of many businesses participating in the Appliance Rebate Program across the state. The program offers rebates ranging from \$100 to \$250 on air conditioners, heat pumps, refrigerators, furnaces, clothes washing machines and dishwashers. The program, which opened on July 6, will continue until the state's \$1.5 million worth of funds is depleted. In the afternoon of the first day, the Energy Office transferred \$220,000 in program funds to rebates due to consumer demand.

"Nebraskan consumers are going into Nebraskan businesses. This is something that benefits residents and retailers," says Ginger Langemeier, director of Nebraska's State Energy Office. "There are all kinds of opportunities for all kinds of products. We think it'll really benefit residents across the state."

Before the program started, the Nebraska Energy Office spoke with and surveyed a variety of Nebraska retailers to get an idea of what products were popular, which would be the most beneficial and the easiest way for the rebates to be organized. "We got a lot of great feedback," says Langemeier. "It was a very helpful step in the process."

Businesses see the benefits

Businesses are already seeing an upside from the program. McGinn estimates that Nebraska Furniture Mart did between 15 and 20 percent of their normal business in a month on July 6 alone. It was their highest gross sales day since the store opened in 1937. "It's been a great shot in the arm economically," he says.

In addition to having extra staff members work on opening day, the store also coordinated with manufacturers to order additional

appliances that met the state's requirements.

McGinn and the store held training sessions for the staff to learn more about those ENERGY STAR products. McGinn hopes the training will carry over into post-rebate program sales.

"It's helped the staff get in tune with ENERGY STAR, and has given them the ability to reinforce with our customers that ENERGY STAR really benefits them in the long run," he says.

Business hasn't slowed much since the rebates started on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the store saw its third highest grossing day.

State director Langemeier is urging Nebraskans to take advantage of the rebates while they last. Rebates are on a first-come, first-served basis, and the program will close when funds are depleted.

"This money goes right into the hands of Nebraskans," says Langemeier.