



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 8.0

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: Dan Olson, Senior Energy Efficiency Planner

Date: November 2, 2011

Re: Energy Impact Illinois (EI2) Program Update

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Energy Impact Illinois, or EI2, is one of the 25 Better Buildings Neighborhood programs grants totaling \$452 million awarded nationally in April 2010. The program represents the competitive portion of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) and consists of a regional collaboration led by the CMAP in partnership with the City of Chicago and City of Rockford, the utilities, as well as support from other local and regional stakeholders. EI2 utilizes the \$25-million grant award to fund three major initiatives designed to mitigate the barriers to energy efficiency retrofitting activities across multiple building sectors in the northeastern Illinois region:

1. Access to comprehensive information (\$6.55 million)
2. Access to functional finance tools (\$15.75 million)
3. Access to a trained workforce (\$200,000)

Over the past year, EI2 has conducted a large number of competitive procurements. As of October 31, 2011, EI2 is moving into program implementation following the full contractual obligation of the grant funds to vendors tasked with carrying out various portions of the program.

Energy Impact Illinois' primary goal is to help Chicago region residents lower their energy bills, by providing smart, personalized information on making energy-saving improvements to their home, resulting in lower energy bills, and linking them to ways to help pay for those improvements. During the grant period, EI2 looks to retrofit at least 6,000 units, leverage more than \$125 million in local investments, and create more than 2,000 jobs. The goal is to develop a sustainable framework that will lead to market transformation and ongoing retrofits well beyond the end of three-year grant period on May 18, 2013.

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As the EI2 program is becoming fully functional, there are some key highlights of the program that will be useful for the Board to be aware of as we continue to generate increased awareness and demand:

- Our new, “Two Bills” marketing and outreach campaign designed to drive consumers towards our website and residential financing program.
- A review of the program’s comprehensive, consumer-facing website at www.TheEnergyBills.org as well as the associated residential building energy tool **MyHomeEQ**.
- A review of our primary residential financing program, as well as the additional resources available through Energy Impact Illinois.

An overview and update of these highlights will be presented at the November 9, 2011 CMAP Board meeting. For more information, please refer to <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/energy>, <http://www.TheEnergyBills.org>, or contact Dan Olson at dolson@cmap.illinois.gov.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

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