

Energy Efficiency Efforts Create Green Jobs

According to a new report, over 2,100 homes in Iowa have been weatherized and 275 jobs were created through the weatherization effort by local providers. The U.S. Department of Energy also announced that Iowa has reached a significant milestone under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – completing weatherization work for more than 30% of the homes the state had planned to weatherize.

As of June 30, 2010, Iowa has weatherized 2,179 homes with federal Recovery Act funding. More than 1,300 additional homes have also been weatherized with our annual program funding allotment. As a result of this progress, the state will now have access to an additional \$40.4 million in Recovery Act weatherization funding to continue providing energy efficiency services to Iowa's low-income families.

The program is also creating new jobs locally. According to the state, approximately 275 workers were employed by state and local weatherization providers during the second quarter of this year. The U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families save energy and money by improving the energy efficiency of their homes.

According to a recent study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, weatherization services save families an average of more than \$400 in energy costs during the first year.

Under the weatherization program, local agencies provide whole-home weatherization services, including conducting an energy audit in the home to identify the most cost-effective improvements, and implementing solutions that range from installing additional insulation and weather-stripping, sealing windows and doors, caulking cracks in the building, and replacing inefficient heating and cooling systems.

In March of 2009, the Green Jobs Initiative Committee (a taskforce set up to identify green jobs in Iowa), released a report that confirmed 8,737 green jobs in Iowa through the Bureau of Labor Statistics.