



Governor's Energy Office - Community Energy Coordinators

Two Community Energy Coordinators to Support the New Energy Economy for 6 County Area



Project Partners gathered on November 11, 2009 to discuss the Governor's Energy Office Rebate Program, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, and other partnership opportunities. Left to Right: Gene Millbrand, Prowers County Commissioner; Misty George, Southeast Colorado RC&D; Judy Fosdick, Watt Wisdom; Peter Dawson, Baca County Commissioner and Economic Development; Tandy Parrish, SE Colorado Business Retention, Expansion, & Attraction; Bob Mailander, Governor's Energy Office.

On December 11, 2009 Southeast Colorado RC&D Council was awarded \$155,000 by the Governor's Energy Office to develop local strategies for increasing energy efficiency in the state's rural regions. The grant was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and will create community energy coordinators (CECs) responsible for helping towns, counties, residents and businesses become more energy efficient.

"We're excited to see champions for the New Energy Economy on the ground in these local communities, working closely with citizens, businesses and governments to help them save money, create jobs and

increase our energy security," said Gov. Bill Ritter. "These grants will give regions across the state opportunities to focus on how they can benefit from energy efficiency and conservation."

Southeast Colorado RC&D will hire two part time CECs, who will work across government boundaries, helping obtain grants, developing local strategies and identifying the best energy efficiency opportunities for their 6 county jurisdiction of Baca, Bent, Kiowa, Prowers, Otero and Crowley counties.

Southeast Colorado RC&D spent 2009 networking with partners in anticipation of this opportunity. Project partners include County Commissioners from each of the six counties, CSU Southeast Area Extension, area colleges, area economic development entities, local utility companies, and many others. The three year project is designed for the Community Energy Coordinators to build local capacity by:

- ◆ Developing the region's long range strategic sustainability plan and related action plans;
- ◆ Providing for knowledge transfer from the GEO to the public;
- ◆ Positioning businesses and the public in the region to more readily access GEO energy programs;
- ◆ Responding to funding opportunities for state and national economic development and other relevant activities related to energy efficiency and renewable energy.