

East Central Colorado RC & D, Inc.



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WWW.EASTCENTRALRCD.ORG

OUR MISSION — PROVIDE A CONTINUING PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE ENRICHMENTS OF THE RURAL LIFESTYLE FOR THE COMMUNITIES AND CITIZENS OF THE EAST CENTRAL COLORADO RC & D REGION

Community Energy Audits - Rural Services Pilot Project

Community Energy Audits (CEA) - The purpose of this project was to apply for an energy audit equipment grant to provide a low cost energy audit service for rural citizens in the East Central Colorado region. The nearest certified energy audit services were in the urban front range of Denver/ Colorado Springs. Grant funds provided for the purchase of equipment to conduct home/small business energy audits. The council provided training funds for the local community energy coordinator (CEC) to become BPI certified. As a result, rural residents have reliable, local, low cost access to energy auditing services. Working locally, residents will more easily participate in *Recharge Colorado* activities and rebates provided through the Colorado Governors Energy Office.

The CEC project period is expected to be in place until 9/2012,

- to provide for knowledge transfer from the GEO to the public;
- to position businesses and the public in the region to more readily access GEO energy programs;
- to respond to funding opportunities for state and national economic development activities related to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

This project idea was an offshoot of the Community Energy Coordinator (CEC) position initiated in **2009** when the ECCRCD council hosted the first of two renewable energy strategy sessions for local county, municipal, and community leaders. Wind energy appeared to be an economic opportunity in the region. This core group supported the concept to apply for the CEC funding made available in **October 2009**. The ECCRCD council was awarded grant funds in **December 2009**. The CEC was hired in **June 2010** and completed a regional strategic plan in **November 2010**. The plan will guide implementation of actions provided with local input at public sessions across the East Central Colorado RC & D area.

Partnerships -

State of Colorado-
Governors Energy
Office (GEO)

County—Lincoln County
(office space and
shared utilities)

Partner—Colorado
State University Extension
(internet access)

In-kind technical assistance - USDA – NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Project Sponsor-
East Central Colorado
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