



## Been wondering about how the stimulus money is being spent?

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Some of the answers to this question will be known tomorrow when the first quarterly report related to recipient expenditures is released by the federal government. State officials and others were burning the midnight oil last weekend trying to meet a Saturday deadline for submitting reports.

This first quarterly round of spending data includes data through Sept. 30 and will include a breakdown of dollars by expenditure, program and state. Tomorrow's report will be posted on Recovery.org, the federal government's dedicated ARRA site, and should list all recipients of contracts to this point. Since government officials are touting the stimulus program as the most transparent spending initiative in history, transparency advocates hope that the data is complete.

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## First four broadband mapping grants made available

### National map, information will be key in policymakers' decisions

The first four broadband mapping grants have been awarded by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The grants, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, will fund projects in California, Indiana, North Carolina and Vermont. Applications were received from all 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia.

The four awards announced include:

- California Public Utilities Commission - \$1.8 million, plus \$500,000 for the cost of broadband planning activities in California over four years;
- Indiana Office of Technology - \$1.3 million;
- The Rural Economic Development Center, Inc. - \$1.6 million, plus \$435,000 for the cost of broadband planning activities in North Carolina over five years; and
- The Vermont Center for Geographic Information - \$1.2 million.

The funds will be used to collect and verify information regarding the availability, speed and location of broadband across these four states, semiannually between this year and 2011. The date will be displayed in NTIA's national broadband map, which will inform both policymakers and the public regarding what broadband Internet services are available.

A national broadband map will be created to show the geographic areas where broadband service is available, the technology being used, the speeds of the service and broadband service availability at public schools, libraries, hospitals, colleges, universities and public buildings. Awardees are required to contribute at least 20 percent non-federal matching funds toward project costs.

For information about these and other funding opportunities, contact [Reagan Weil](#) or [Richard Hartmann](#) at 512-531-3900.

## Solar America Cities grant awards announced

### Sixteen cities offer 40 projects aimed at increasing use of solar energy

Sixteen cities throughout the country have been named recipients of Recovery Act funding for 40 new Solar America Cities Special Projects. The \$10 million in funds they will share will help these cities increase solar energy use in their communities with innovative programs and policies that officials hope will be replicated in other cities across the country.

The recent awards are a follow-up to 2007 and 2008 when the U.S. Department of Energy began partnering with 25 large American cities to develop comprehensive, city-wide approaches to increasing the use of solar energy. Among the success stories are cities that have developed solar financing models, streamlined solar permitting processes and created training courses for solar installers. This new round of funding will allow these 16 cities to advance their most promising projects to overcome barriers to the urban use of solar energy.

The results of the partnerships will be shared with other local governments as part of a planned 2010 outreach program. To view the 16 projects that were funded, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

For information about these and other funding opportunities, contact [Reagan Weil](#) or [Richard Hartmann](#) at 512-531-3900.

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## Follow the money

### Part of \$87 million for solar energy technology comes from ARRA

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced that up to \$87 million in funding, \$50 million of which will come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will be made available to help deploy new solar energy technologies and available carbon-free solar energy systems.

Nearly 50 projects with universities, electric power utilities, DOE national laboratories and local governments will participate in the support of solar technologies in United States cities. They will also help address challenges, ensure reliable connectivity with the electric grid and train workers to install and maintain solar energy sources. The goal is a quicker adoption of solar energy throughout the country.

In addition to the Solar America Cities Special Projects, seven projects will be part of the High Penetration Solar Deployment to model, test and evaluate the impact of photovoltaic (PV) electricity on the electric power system. The Solar Installer Training will be in conjunction with nine colleges, universities and local organizations who will lead regional "train-the-trainer" programs to ensure solar energy system installers can meet the industry demand. The final division of funds will be for research projects at national laboratories. Fifteen projects will seek to improve technologies, devices and processes for the PV and Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) industry.

## Stimulus news briefs

### Low contract costs means more funds for additional highway projects

Lower than expected construction projects costs are allowing the Colorado Transportation Commission to start nine additional projects with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

Among the projects are a bridge reconstruction on I-25 and Alameda in Denver, a project funded with \$35 million in Recovery Act funds. Another \$600,000 in stimulus funds will help subsidize construction of a new pedestrian bridge on the historic Arkansas Riverwalk. Other projects include resurfacing, bridge repairs, road widening, curb ramp and guardrail updates and upgrades to traffic signals, to name a few.

## What the states are doing

A \$50 million project to change out mercury-vapor lights with efficient induction-fluorescent models in 85 cities and towns in **New Jersey** is under way in Cherry Hill. The conversion is expected to cut energy use for lighting by up to one-half. Other projects throughout the state include replacing transmission cables and making infrastructure more energy efficient.

Shenandoah National Park in **Virginia** will use federal stimulus funds of approximately \$1 million of its \$30 million in Recovery Act funding to repave roads, parking areas and trail heads. Other projects that include repaving and rehabilitation of overlooks, access roads and other areas should begin in the spring.

The University of **North Carolina**-Wilmington will use some of its \$15.8 million in stimulus funds for construction of its marine sciences building.

The city transit system in Des Moines, **Iowa**, is using \$7.9 million in recovery funds to purchase seven buses that will replace others that have been on the road for more than 15 years, and to improve its 32-year-old operating facility downtown. Some of the money will also be used to equip buses with global positioning systems and make other route-planning technology available.

The six national forests in **Arizona** will have \$43.3 million in Recovery Act funds to cut underbrush that fuels wildfires, to repair roads, to seal abandoned mines and more. Other projects include removing invasive grasses, improving trails and rehabilitating campgrounds.

More than half of the funding for a new 60-foot bridge to be built across Corralitos Creek in Santa Cruz County, **California**, is being provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. That \$460,000, combined with other state and federal funding, is a small part of a \$3 million project aimed at making the channel more appealing to steelhead trout as attempts are made to repopulate the species. Cost of the bridge is \$800,000.

**Kentucky** Business Enterprises, a division of the Kentucky Office for the Blind, will receive more than \$124,000 to purchase 14 cold food and 17 snack vending machines. The machines will replace older ones at state government buildings and federal interstate rest stops.

The roof of the Veterans Memorial Coliseum at the **Arizona** State Fairgrounds will get a \$1.7 million upgrade thanks to the Recovery Act. The stimulus funds will supplement the \$3.6 million Fairground officials have spent so far this year on roof repairs.

**New Mexico** is looking at \$24 million in stimulus funds to improve energy efficiency at the state's schools, colleges, tribes and other agencies. The funds can be used for installing solar power, energy-efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems and implementing Web conferencing technologies.

**Arizona** Public Service Co. has been awarded a \$3.3 million Recovery Act grant to study how high-density rooftop solar systems will work in Flagstaff, Arizona. The company will study the effects of high-penetrations of solar rooftop systems up to 1.5 megawatts in both residential and commercial buildings.

Twenty-eight million dollars is headed to **Missouri** for energy efficiency projects. The goal of the projects is to reduce energy consumption, increase home energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy.

Preservation of a historic East **Tennessee** cemetery will benefit from \$144,444 in Recovery Act funds. The money is administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to repair historic monuments and memorials at Knoxville National Cemetery. The cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

Cutting energy costs for schools, supporting a solar power pilot project for schools and helping cities and counties reduce energy consumption is the goal of energy efficiency projects in **Idaho**. Toward that result, \$28 million in Recovery Act funding is headed to the state.

**New York** solar energy projects will benefit from \$10 million in Recovery Act funds. The money will be available through the state energy program and will be used for installation of solar photovoltaic systems. The money will be distributed to provide incentives for such systems that connect to New York's energy grid.

Numerous upgrades to downtown streetscapes, including decorative sidewalks and addition of trees to street areas will be paid for with \$1.2 million in stimulus funds in Vandalia, **Ohio**.

## Other national news

### Funding to enhance 9-1-1 granted to 30 states, territories

States and territories that applied for grant funds to improve their 9-1-1 services will share \$40 million in funding, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Thirty grant recipients will receive funding to help them locate individuals calling 9-1-1 call centers from wireless and Internet-connected telephones.

Officials note that the majority of emergency 9-1-1 calls currently come from wireless and Internet-connected phones. The E-911 grant will help pay for enhanced 9-1-1 services. The funds can be used to implement advanced technologies to help deliver 9-1-1 calls with automatic crash location information as well as evacuation alerts to people using wireless services, warning them of dangerous situations like a bridge being washed out or a toxic spill.

The largest grant was awarded to Texas, which was allocated more than \$5.3 million. California ranked second with a \$4.3 million award, followed by Pennsylvania with a \$2.4 million allocation. To view the complete list of grant recipients, click [HERE](#) and look under "Recent Reports."

### Funds will help repair facility damaged during Hurricane Katrina

Repair of the nonprofit Economic Development Unit (EDU) on Jefferson Davis Parkway and Thalia Street in New Orleans will be paid for with a \$1.1 million federal grant announced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Louisiana Recovery Office and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The five-building facility suffered damages to windows, doors, floors, walls, ceilings and communications and electrical systems during and after Hurricane Katrina.

### EPA awards \$800,000 to LDEQ for water quality projects

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$809,652 to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to assist in the implementation of its Nonpoint Source Management Plan which is designed to meet the goals of the federal Clean Water Act. Funding through this cooperative agreement with LDEQ will support a variety of projects and will help to address water quality problems in Louisiana.

### Airports garner funding to aid in security efforts

Approximately \$19.7 million in funding from the Transportation Security Administration has been awarded to three major airports across the country. The grants are intended to help strengthen security at the nation's airports.

Included in the funding are:

- Dallas Love Field - \$3.6 million for installation of closed circuit television (CCTV) technology. The funding allows for installation of new cameras throughout the airport. The funding will enhance security systems already in place at the airport and provide a high level of threat detection and enhanced emergency response and risk mitigation.
- Logan International Airport (Boston) - \$2.5 million for installation of additional CCTV systems. The new cameras will work in conjunction with an increase in storage and playback capabilities on existing cameras.
- O'Hare International Airport (Chicago) - \$13.6 million for the construction of a new inline baggage handling system designed to enhance efforts to strengthen airport security. The funds will pay for the design, construction and installation of an inline baggage screening system in Terminal 1.

### EPA makes award to Border Environment Cooperation Commission

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$1,100,000 to the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) to administer and implement priority environmental projects consistent with the Border 2012 Program Goal #2: Air pollution. BECC will coordinate with EPA on the development of a process for the solicitation of project proposals, selection of eligible projects, and implementation of selected projects for EPA Region 6. BECC will also coordinate with EPA on the implementation of requests for proposals (RFPs) and the selection of eligible and ranked projects. Projects will then be implemented in accordance with a strategy developed by the BECC.

### EPA awards \$106,000 to Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$106,000 to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to provide continued support for their water pollution control program. Surface water sampling on Tribal lands will continue for compiling data which may show changes over time to determine if a more thorough watershed management program is needed to develop water quality standards. Data analysis after water sampling will determine whether water quality needs of the Tribe are being met, note any changes in the quality or condition of the Tribe's water and understand and define the function and health of water stream ecosystems.

### 10-turbine wind project loan announced by USDA

A 10-turbine project to supply power to the community of Greensburg, Kansas, has been announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A loan of \$17.4 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and will be aided with a \$5.8 million equity investment by a private sector firm. The funds are going to Greensburg Wind Farm, LLC.

The total project cost is estimated at \$23.3 million. The wind turbine project will generate 12.5 MWs of electricity that will serve the electric needs of the City of Greensburg and other rural communities through the Kansas Power Pool.

Since a tornado devastated Greensburg in 2007, USDA Rural Development has provided an estimated \$20 million in financing to help with the community rebuilding efforts. Funding includes nearly \$5.9 million to support local housing, \$10 million in community facility funding to support local hospital efforts and \$3.6 million in economic development assistance.

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## Calendar of events

### Web seminar on use of feed-in tariffs slated for Oct. 28

A Web seminar for state and local officials on how state and local governments are beginning to use feed-in tariffs as a policy to advance emerging renewable energy technologies is being offered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Technical Assistance Project. The Web seminar will be from 3 to 4:15 p.m. (EDT) on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The program, "Feed-In Tariffs: Best Practices and Application in the United States," will feature Karlynn Cory, energy analyst at the DOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory as she presents several examples of such policies from across the United States. The Web seminar is free of charge, but you must register in advance to obtain a URL for the presentation and call-in phone number. To register online, find information about the presenters and read background materials and reports, click [HERE](#).

### National Brownfields conference slated Nov. 16-18

The 13th National Brownfields Conference has been scheduled for Nov. 16-18 at New Orleans' Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. More than 6,000 environmental and economic development officials, finance and insurance providers, risk managers, planners, attorneys, civil engineers and students are expected to attend. The program features more than 150 panel sessions on green jobs and green remediation, creative financing and financial risk management, community and economic development, environmental assessment and cleanup, use of alternative energy to power the cleanup and redevelopment of properties, sustainability and more. There also will be more than 200 exhibitors. Displays of the latest technologies and services, mobile workshops and walking tours of New Orleans are also included. The National Brownfields Conference is managed by the International City/County Management Association, in partnership with EPA. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

### Conference on Global Preparedness set in December

The Third Annual Conference on Global Preparedness is set for Dec. 8-10 at the Melbourne Hilton Rialto Place in Melbourne, Fla. The event is hosted by the Florida Institute of Technology's Global Center for Preparedness. This year's event will feature speakers: Kay Goss, associate director of FEMA from 1994-2001 and now director of emergency management and crisis communications for SRA International; Yuki Karakawa from the International Association of Emergency Managers; Terry Gillette, president of Raytheon-St. Lou Kratz, vice president and managing director, Logistics and Sustainment, Lockheed Martin Corp.; and representatives of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Florida National Guard and the Department of Homeland Security. Major topics will include emergency response and interoperability, the economy and preparedness, cyber-security and information assurance, human factors and secure technology. Presentations will show how these areas are interconnected to identify today's challenges. To register, contact Conference Administration at (321) 674-8342 or email [cginfo@itf.edu](#). For more information, click [HERE](#).

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## All 50 states have own recovery Web sites

All 50 of the states and the District of Columbia now have their own "recovery" sites where citizens can track where ARRA dollars are being spent in their respective states. The states are charged with ensuring accountability and transparency in how the funds are spent and their Web sites show the projects being funded and the amount of ARRA funds allocated. For links to each of the state and District of Columbia recovery Web sites, [HERE](#).

## Procurement consulting, national research and advocacy services

Strategic Partnerships, Inc. (SPI), a leading company in the state and local government procurement, national research and government relations world, offers a timely client-customized service that helps companies find and capture state and local government contracts arising from the recently enacted federal stimulus package. [Click here](#) for procurement consulting and advocacy services

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The State and Local Government Pipeline is a free, important e-newsletter detailing important happenings throughout the country and the premier source for state and local government news and contracting opportunities.

Publisher: Mary Scott Nabers

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