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### First District Association of Local Governments

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### Energy Block Grants (cont.)

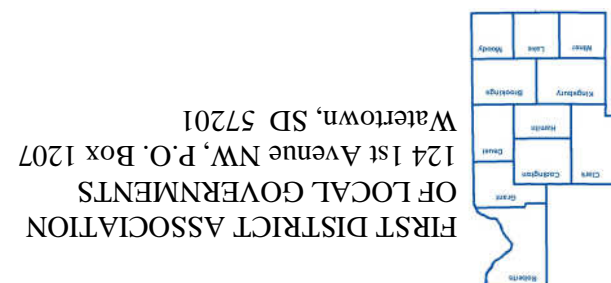
Finally, this program pays bills on a reimbursement basis. Any cost incurred or project bid prior to the awarding of the grant is not eligible for reimbursement.

While it may appear that there is a considerable amount of information required for this grant program and a minimal amount of time to gather it, remember that the First District is here to assist you with the packaging of your grant application. If you have projects which will increase energy efficiency and reduce energy costs and consumption, and want to take advantage of this grant program, please do not hesitate to contact Ted, Greg or myself here at the District.



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FIRST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION  
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# FIRST DISTRICT NEWS

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## GREENHOUSE GAS MANDATORY REPORTING RULE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule. The rule requires reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from large sources and suppliers in the United States, and is intended to collect accurate and timely emissions data to inform future policy decisions. Under the rule, suppliers of fossil fuels or industrial greenhouse gases, manufacturers of vehicles and engines, and facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons or more per year of GHG emissions are required to submit annual reports to EPA.

States, municipalities, and tribes could be required to submit an annual GHG report if they own or operate facilities subject to the rule. Landfills, sanitary sewage treatment facilities and stationary combustion equipment are the most likely types of facilities that might trigger applicability. The rule applies to all types of stationary combustion equipment (except for emergency generators and portable equipment) if the aggregate maximum rated heat input capacity of all stationary fuel combustion units at a facility is 30 million British thermal units per hour (mmBtu/hr) or greater, and the facility emits 25,000 metric tons or more of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) per year from all stationary fuel combustion sources. The rule applies to landfills that generate CH4 in amounts equal to 25,000 metric tons of CO2e or more per year. It also applies to municipal power generation plants that report to the EPA Acid Rain Program or emit 25,000 metric tons or more of CO2e per year.



EPA has developed an Applicability Tool to aid in assessing whether they are required to report under the rule, which is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/GHG-calculator/index.html>. A guide for state and local agencies is available at [www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghg\\_infosheets.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghg_infosheets.html).



## MY THOUGHTS. . .

BY: TODD A. KAYS,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program

On October 20, 2009 the Executive Directors of the South Dakota Planning and Development Districts met with Statewide Energy Manager Michelle Farris to discuss the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. The program will provide 5.6 million dollars in grants to counties and communities that did not get direct energy grants. That means within the First District, all counties and communities with the exception of the cities of Brookings and Watertown and Lake County are eligible to apply for these grant funds.

The goals of the program are to reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and, to the maximum extent practicable, maximizes benefits for local and regional communities; reduces the total energy use of the eligible entities; and improves energy efficiency in the building sector, the transportation sector, and other appropriate sectors.

Eligible projects are those projects which will increase energy efficiency and reduce energy costs. Examples of projects include but are not limited to efficient lighting, windows, furnaces, insulation, etc. This is a competitive grant process, and projects will be ranked by the following criteria: Simple Payback; Energy Savings; Job Creation and Retention; Sustainability of the Project; and Maximum Benefit to the Community.

The applications for the grant program are to be prepared by the First District. Specific information necessary for a complete application includes:

**The Applicant's DUNS number and Central Contractor's Registration (CCR)** – If you do not have a DUNS number or CCR registration, you will want to start the process, since it may take up to two weeks to get registered. Contact information:

**DUNS:** Phone number 1-866-705-5711 (This phone call takes about 5-10 minutes to complete).

**CCR:** <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/default.aspx>

**Project Description** – What is it that you propose to do – i.e. lower the ceiling in the Auditor's office, replace windows and insulate the courthouse.

**Project Construction Date** - i.e. June 2010.

**Project Cost** – You will need to explain how the cost estimate was determined – i.e. Window vendor estimate (parts and labor). It is also important to get an estimate of the number of hours required to do the project. This will assist in projecting the number of jobs created and/or retained.

**Grant Amount Request** - The grant program could pay for 100 percent of the costs. However, local participation could increase the application's rating.

**Energy Measures Summary** - Has the applicant completed any activities in the past to conserve energy or improve energy efficiency?

**Energy History** - The applicant will need to provide a one year energy usage and cost history.

**Energy Savings Analysis** - The analysis shall include a simple payback calculation. An energy savings analysis need not be long or overly complicated; however, it shall be based on sound, basic engineering principles. Contractors or manufacturer representatives sometimes provide energy savings analysis free of charge. Unclear or questionable analysis may not be considered. Distinguish energy savings by fuel type. **Do not** estimate savings using simple percentage decreases. Use current energy prices and do not project escalated prices.

**Measurement and Verification** – A plan describing how the applicant intends to conduct measurement and verification for the project and provide energy savings information to the energy office.

**Waste Disposal Plan** – The applicant will have to prepare a disposal plan for sanitary and hazardous waste generated by the project.

**Environmental Review** – The applicant will need to complete the National Environmental Policy Act Form EF-1.

Applicants may include several projects on a single application. However, it should be noted that information relating to the energy savings and analysis will be specific to each individual project.

I should note that there is a sense of urgency related to this grant program. All applications must be completed and submitted to the state no later than January 20, 2010. What further complicates the application process is that in order to complete the National Environmental Policy Act Form EF-1, environmental review letters may need to be submitted to the various reviewing agencies. This process may take up to 30 days. Therefore, it is imperative that the First District office receives the above identified information no later than December 7, 2009. This will allow the District to submit the necessary environmental review letters and anticipate having the applications packaged and submitted by the required application deadline.

*Continued p. 6—Energy Block Grants*



## GIS Conference in Pierre a Success

More than 90 people were in attendance at the GIS Users Conference in Pierre on September 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The conference, sponsored by the State of South Dakota, the Black Hills Digital Mapping Group, and the SD Spatial Technology Consortium (STC) drew users from all over the State to talk about GIS activities, hear about current projects, and attend training sessions.

The conference began with a recap of how GIS began in the state by former State GIS Coordinator Ron Woodburn, and continued with sessions ranging from 911, to utilities mapping, and finished on Wednesday with Dave Greenlee from EROS Data Center speaking about the USGS National Map.

GIS users were also invited to wine and cheese tasting at the Cultural Heritage Center on Tuesday evening. ChrisaMari Vineyards, located in the Pierre area, provided the wine. A shuttle service was provided to and from the wine tasting event, and was used extensively.

Stephen Shivers, the USGS liaison to the Dakotas, functioned as the main organizer of the conference. The consensus afterward was that the meeting will become a regular event, with conferences every year to 18 months apart.

### Now is a Great Time for SBA 504 Financing



With SBA 504 rates declining, fixed asset financing for small businesses has never looked better. October rates were the lowest ever for the program at **4.86% for a 20 year fixed rate**, which will stabilize debt payments and assist with more favorable cash flow for the business.

In addition to the low rates, many of the SBA fees were waived with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This is a temporary fee elimination, so business owners are encouraged to act now if they have a project possibility. Fees will be reinstated when funds are no longer available to cover those costs.

If you have a project that involves the purchase or expansion of an existing business or the start-up of a new business, they may be eligible for SBA 504 financing. The project must have a fixed asset component which would involve the purchase of real estate, construction of a building or purchase of equipment. Call the First District office to determine if your project is eligible.

### WESTERN PLANNER CONFERENCE HELD IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Planner's Association held its annual conference in conjunction with the annual Western Planner's Conference which was held September 9<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup> in Spearfish, South Dakota. The Western Planner includes members in Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and, Alaska. This meeting marked the first time since 2000 that the Western Planner's Conference was held in South Dakota. Presentations covered a wide range of planning topics from transportation funding and application of constitutional law in planning to the regulation of electronic signs. The conference was attended by planners and city officials from each of the areas comprising its membership, including 81 registered attendees from South Dakota. The South Dakota Planner's Association held sessions on September 8<sup>th</sup> for matters pertaining more directly to planning in South Dakota, including a session on pipelines and summaries of court cases related to planning in the state over the past year. In case you would like to reserve a room for the 2010 South Dakota Planner's Conference, it will be held in Pierre, SD on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.