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APPLIED SOLUTIONS UPDATES

Applied Solutions Local Technical Advisory

Applied Solutions is bringing together experts from around the country to be a part of the new Applied Solutions Local Technical Advisory Council (LTAC). The Applied Solutions LTAC will bring together experts at the county and city staff level to provide a consistent source of sound technical advice with respect to local issues related to energy, water, transportation, land use and resource management. The LTAC will be charged with assessing and recommending technical solutions to local issues and through their specific areas of expertise, providing a consistent source of technical advice to local jurisdictions involved in the Applied Solutions network and to ensure that the integrity of the Applied Solutions work is grounded on technical and scientific considerations of the highest quality. At the individual county and city level, the most tangible and realistic impacts can be achieved through the development clean energy, efficiency and low-use water systems. Applied Solutions and the Applied Solutions Local Technical Advisory Council have developed to very specifically address these issues.

The Local Technical Advisory Council is drawn from the base of Applied Solutions members and partners - counties, cities and national laboratories. LTAC members are appointed based on their technical expertise in relevant fields such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, water systems, transportation, land use and resource management. In holding true to Applied Solutions commitment of focusing on the specific needs and challenges of small or medium sized counties and cities as opposed to large metropolises, LTAC members will largely reflect this constituency.

For more information, contact Amy Bolten at amy.bolten@scwa.ca.gov or call 707-547-1981.
GSC West Conference on May 2nd and 3rd

The Sonoma County Water Agency and Applied Solutions would like to invite you to participate in a conference we are hosting May 2 - 3, 2012 in Sonoma County, California. This conference is geared towards elected leaders and staff, sharing local government best practices and emerging trends in four distinct programming tracks: Water, Energy, Transportation and Resource Management.

Day 1 will open with a half-day legislative roundtable for top leadership at the St. Francis Winery & Vineyards in Santa Rosa, California. This forum will encourage an active dialog around issues ranging from energy financing, transportation and future water supply reliability. A networking reception for all conference and roundtable attendees will follow the afternoon discussion. Day 2 will focus on leading innovations in the water, energy, transportation and land use.

The Growing Sustainable Communities Conference is being developed with input from city and county staff across California and we hope to have you and your staff join us. This conference is being presented in collaboration with Sustainable City Network and Climate Communities. For additional information please call Amy Bolten at (707) 547-1981, email amy.bolten@scwa.ca.gov, or visit www.gscwest.com.

Click here to register at a discounted rate by Wednesday, April 26th!

Project Profile: Ball State University Geothermal Energy System

Ball State University has a long-standing reputation for its commitment to sustainability. Sticking with their reputation, beginning in the spring of 2012 Ball State University began to operate the largest ground-source, closed-loop district geothermal energy system in the nation. Ball State has already begun to reduce its reliance on its existing boilers and by the time the system is fully operational the university will be able to completely shut down their four coal-fired boilers. As a result of shutting down the coal-fired boilers, the university campus will cut its carbon footprint nearly in half. The geothermal system will be used to heat and cool 47 buildings, resulting in $2 million in annual savings. In addition to the direct monetary savings for the university, according to Ball State's Center for Business and Economic Research, the project provided several hundred contractors and suppliers' employment and an opportunity for an estimated 2,300 direct and indirect jobs.

Ball States system is a great representation of how geothermal energy coupled with ground source heat pump technology can be used on a large-scale district distribution system. Ground-source geothermal energy is a feasible possibility nationally, making Ball States’ system universally appealing.
LBNL Releases Paper on Incentivizing "Clean" Technologies in the Private Sector

Applied Solutions Board Member Dr. Margaret Taylor, a researcher at the Lawrence Berkeley National Labs, has released a new report on how the success of some cap-and-trade programs in achieving predetermined pollution reduction targets at low cost seems to have reduced incentives for research and development that could help develop more appropriate pollution control targets.

For more information, see this article. Click here to read the full paper.

Purcellville wins National Sustainability Award

The Town of Purcellville Wednesday was one of three winners of the national U.S. Chamber Business Civic Leadership Center and Siemens Corporation Sustainable Community Award. Mayor Bob Lazaro was in Atlanta, GA, to receive the award. Town leaders and staff had been anxiously waiting to hear the results after being told Purcellville was a finalist in the small community category several weeks ago. The town of almost 8,000 was in good company, named as winner along with Chicago, IL, in the large community category, and Santa Monica, CA, in the mid-size category.

In the announcement of the 2012 Siemens Sustainable Community Award winner, Purcellville was cited for its "proactive use of land and natural resources. Additionally, Purcellville's 'Go Green' goals are now part of the town's comprehensive sustainability plan." The citation also stated, "Purcellville thrives economically and has received recognition from Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell and former Virginia Governor Tim Kaine for its sustainability efforts."

The three communities were selected from among 132 nominees in 40 states, each noted for their focus on a multi-disciplinary approach to sustainability, one that has positively impacted local businesses and enhanced the quality of life among their residents, according the organization.
Delaware Launches Solar Energy Credit Market

Delaware is launching a pilot program designed to encourage homeowners, businesses and industrial leaders to install solar power panels. Starting in April, the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility will create a market for the buying and selling of solar renewable energy credits. These credits will be sold and traded like stocks on the stock market. Who's buying? Companies that need to comply with state standards for renewable energy can offset their lack of compliance by purchasing credits from homeowners, businesses and others who are generating power through renewable methods like solar.

Delaware state Senator Harris McDowell announced the SREC program at Delaware Technical and Community College's Wilmington campus Thursday morning. He says it's "a significant new source of money and economic development." The market is designed to help residents and businesses finance solar power improvements which in turn should reduce emissions and increase employment opportunities in the green energy field. "It's designed to keep a steadily growing industry in the solar field." says McDowell, D-Wilmington North.

To increase the potential help for the local economy, there is a 10 percent credit for solar systems installed by Delaware workers, and a 10 percent credit for buying solar panels built by Delaware companies like Motech, which has a facility in Newark.

For more information, see the full article here.

Register Now: NACo Forum on Innovative Waste Management

Join NACo in Broward County for a knowledge-sharing experience on the innovative strategies available for counties to divert waste from landfills. With county landfills filling up and a resistance toward sighting new ones, waste management issues are moving up on your priority list.

Broward County offers you the unique opportunity to visit one of the most advanced recycling and waste diversion facilities in the country. The Forum also includes peer-to-peer exchanges and workshop sessions on how to get on the path to zero waste.

NACo will cover the expense of up to two nights’ lodging at the event hotel for as many as two individuals per NACo member county, while space remains available.

To learn more and register, please visit www.naco.org/wmforum.

Contact: Cindy Wasser at cwasser@naco.org or 202-942-4274
Webinar:
Learn How CLEAN Programs Can Help You Reach Renewable Energy Goals

Join SEPA on Thursday, April 26th, 11am PST/2pm EST, for an educational webinar, CLEAN Programs: Helping Utilities Meet Renewable Energy Goals. Clean Local Energy Accessible Now ("CLEAN") Programs, also known as Feed-in Tariffs, are proven, easy-to-implement policies that help utilities meet renewable energy goals and communities capture clean energy jobs and investment opportunities while minimizing administrative burdens on utility staff. This webinar will explain how to evaluate, design and implement a cost-effective CLEAN Program. Speakers from the Clean Coalition and from City of Palo Alto will provide an overview of CLEAN Programs and a case study of the City of Palo Alto's recently implemented program, Palo Alto CLEAN.

Following the webinar, all registrants will receive a link to the Local CLEAN Program Guide, which provides a step-by-step guide to lead utilities through the process of designing and enacting successful CLEAN Programs using global best practices. Click here to register.