

LETTER TO LIHEAP/WAP AGENCIES
REGARDING
THE ENERGY INSTITUTE OF WASHINGTON

Dear Colleague,

Please find below a draft description of a new initiative of the Energy Project, with support from the Washington State Community Action Partnership and WA Commerce. This initiative is intended to build capacity for Washington's low-income energy network leaders in order to continue and improve upon the success we have had in leveraging new funds, fending off threats to existing funding, enhancing program design, and the overall understanding of the energy system by LIHEAP and WAP personnel. This knowledge gained at the local level can then be built into in-house staff training for new and existing staff, and passed on to clients.

A representative steering committee of this Institute concept has been formed and we would like to get some feedback from each of you. We have set up a SurveyMonkey site to this end. Please go to:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L9KSD9V>

to answer questions about your interest in participation by February 5, 2010 so we can further work on the logistics for the first training.

Please contact Michael Karp of the Energy Project with any questions. Michael can be reached at (360) 468-2218 or michael@awish.net

I. INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY SELF SUFFICIENCY

- **INTENT:** educate our network's key energy personnel with a grounded understanding of the overall energy system and important influences.
- **CERTIFICATION:** a certificate of participation would be awarded to individuals who participate in all of the sessions.
- **PARTICIPANTS:** the target audience would be local agency executive directors, energy program directors, program coordinators or supervisors, managers and/or other stable/long-term staff as deemed appropriate by the local agency. Commerce staff of the Housing/LIHEAP programs are also a target audience. There may be some representation of a handful of other non-profit public interest staff.
- **FACULTY:** the "faculty" will be comprised of regional experts for specific areas. Each instructor may be paid an honorarium and travel.

- **TIME COMMITMENT:** A two-three year progressive course (e.g. Year One is Energy 101; Year Two 201; Year Three 301) We expect the trainings to be three times a year.
- **LOCATION:** we may ask one of our local agencies to host a training on a rotating basis and with geographic sensitivities.

Examples of Prospective topics:

101 – First Year

SPRINGTIME 2010– 1.5 days; perhaps 2 faculty members present

Day One: Energy System Basics

- How our energy is generated, transmitted, and distributed
- Current energy sources in the region
- Who are the regional players and institutions

Day Two: Energy Policy and Utility Governance

- Difference of regulated versus consumer owned utilities
- How rates are determined
- Access points for impacting decisions
- Consumer Protection related issues

LATE SUMMER 2010 – 1.5 days; perhaps 2 faculty members present

Day Three: Burgeoning Issues that Will Affect

- Low-Income Services
- Climate Change and the Role of Energy Efficiency
- New Age Ratemaking: Decoupling./Straight Fixed Variable Rates
- Smart Grid

Day Four: Building Utility Relationships

- Effectively interacting with your local utility
- Intervening in proceedings
- Leveraging funds

FALL 2010 – One Day -Held in conjunction with the annual Commerce Energy Conference; one or two faculty

Day Five: Alternative Program Designs

- Community Organizing Principles

• 201 – Second Year

To Be Determined – only those completing the 101 course eligible to attend

