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**Summary  
GreenPrint Committee**

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**Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2009      11:00 am    Location:    Council Conference Room 391**

**Committee Members Present:    Nevitt, Chair; Linkhart, Vice-Chair; Lehmann**

**Committee Members Absent:    Brown**

**Other Council Present:          Garcia, Robb**

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**1. Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)**

Summary of Discussion

Jennifer Barela and Scott Morrissey, Mayor's Office, discussed the Administration's planning efforts to date regarding the expected Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and invited input from Councilmembers. The following points were made:

- ❖ Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants were authorized in the 2007 Energy Bill and appropriated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and are potentially a source of on-going funding if successful
- ❖ Denver's share of the total \$2.8 billion in direct formula funding is expected to be \$6,079,500
- ❖ In addition to the formula funding in the new block grant, Denver will be seeking additional related funding from other appropriate sources: \$400 million in Competitive Federal EECBG funding; Department of Labor-Green Jobs; Environmental Protection Agency; State Weatherization Program; Governor's Energy Office; and Annual Federal Appropriations
- ❖ The timeline and process for energy block grant formula funds requires application by June 25 with half of the funds obligated upon the Department of Energy's approval of the City's required Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS) with the remaining 50% obligated after "one or more progress reviews". Funds must be obligated within 18 months and spent within 36 months
- ❖ Due to Denver's GreenPrint Denver activities and its work on its Climate Action Plan, the City is well positioned to develop the EECS and meet other federal process requirements for the energy block grant in a timely fashion
- ❖ Eligible activities under the formula fund include:
  - Building energy audits
  - Financial incentive programs
  - Energy retrofits
  - Transportation programs
  - Building code improvements

- Material conservation programs
  - Greenhouse gas reduction
  - Traffic signals and streetlights
  - Renewable energy applications
- ❖ The Administration's strategy is to look at funding projects in high-impact categories proposed by City agencies and other stakeholders which best fit with the federal program guidance
  - ❖ A top category being considered includes projects reducing municipal energy use due to the direct, documentable reduction in energy use and creation of on-going budget savings
  - ❖ Another category includes programs to reduce residential energy use to build on existing neighborhood outreach work, focus on low-income residents, and directly impact utility bills, increase disposable income, and make homes more comfortable
  - ❖ A third category focuses on alternative transportation options as part of a comprehensive energy reduction strategy to reduce the energy used and pollution created by single-occupancy vehicle trips
  - ❖ Finally, the Administration is also interested in reducing energy use in non-municipal facilities since buildings account for the largest proportion of Denver's greenhouse gas emissions

Councilmembers provided the following direction to the Administration on its planning for the new funds:

*Councilman Linkhart* suggested focusing on collaborating with related ongoing initiatives in the City to get the highest impact such as home weatherization which can create jobs, employ youth to do the door-to-door work, and create long term energy efficiency impacts

*Councilman Garcia* asked the Administration to review how the funding can help back-fill appropriate City positions that could face layoffs due to the current budget concerns

*Councilwoman Robb* pointed out that few projects being proposed focus on multi-modal transportation and she suggested that the Living Streets initiative be integrated into the planning process

*Councilwoman Lehmann* said that education was key to implementing some sustainable "low hanging fruit" like turning off lights in buildings at night and engaging Denver Public Schools in the overall process

*Councilman Nevitt* reported on research about changing behavior where individuals in neighborhoods receive information about their energy use compared to their neighbors and the kinds of incentives that are effective in promoting sustained energy efficiencies

Mr. Morrissey promised to return to the Committee for continuing dialogues around the City's efforts with the federal energy block grant and invited Councilmembers to contact him directly with their ideas about the program.

*Shelley Smith, May 31, 2009, Council Legislative Services, S:\Committees\2008-2009\Greenprint\Summary\5-19-09.doc*