

2014 Programs and Priorities

AEO manages a variety of programs including **Energy Efficiency Arkansas (EEA)** which is utility collaborative focused on promoting energy efficiency to all markets. AEO will continue to manage efforts for state agencies to meet the energy efficiency goals by 2017 through the **Sustainable Energy-Efficient Buildings Program**. AEO is a stakeholder on the state's task force to develop a state plan by 2016 in order to be in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's **111(d) Rule**. Additionally, AEO administers the **Clean Cities Coalition** and **Energy Assurance Planning** efforts in the state. Below is a list of the priorities for the coming year.

Arkansas Energy Code

AEO seeks approval of the 2014 Arkansas Energy Code (2009 IECC) while developing a robust education and outreach curriculum for code inspectors, builders, realtors and appraisers. AEO will engage in compliance assessments to identify barriers and needs to increase code compliance. Additionally, AEO will seek to work with utilities and the Arkansas Public Service Commission to determine barriers and needs in order for utility programs to assist with code compliance.

Arkansas Energy Performance Contracting Program

AEO has been required to develop and implement rules and processes for state agencies to engage with Energy Performance Contracts. AEO will oversee the process on behalf of state agencies via a fee to ESCOs to help maintain a self-sustaining program. The goal is to have this program operational by September 2014.

Weatherization Assistance Program

In the last year the WAP program has been transferred to AEO. AEO engages a network of eight subgrantees. AEO is working network to identify strategies in order to serve more clients and reduce the wait lists that currently sit anywhere from two to fourteen years. AEO has engaged procurement changes, developing leveraging opportunities and reduced the allowable cost per unit. A goal has been set to reduce the wait time to less than one year for clients.

Arkansas Gaseous Fuels Rebate Program (CNG Program)

This program provides incentives for the purchase of clean alternate fuel stations, as well as, new vehicles and vehicle conversions. Two stations were recently awarded grants for this program and the vehicle rebate program will open July 2014. Rebates amount to 50 percent of the incremental cost of new vehicle and up to \$4,500 per vehicle.

Finance Programs

Utility On-Bill Financing Loan Loss Reserve Program

This program will provide financial funds in loan loss reserve pool to utilities that provide on-bill repayment or on-bill financing programs for residential customers.

Arkansas Energy Technology Loan Program

Goal is to support clean technology companies in Arkansas to make EE retrofits, or make and sell products that utilize RE/EE that result in an overall reduction in energy use in the state through low interest loans.

Stimulating Energy Efficiency, Finance Study - 2013 Competitive State Energy Plan Grant

AEO in partnership with the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) will engage a diverse coalition of stakeholders in the state to identify, develop, evaluate and implement a menu of program and policy opportunities that are meant to stimulate energy efficiency action in Arkansas under last year's competitive award.

Residential Labeling – ARHome Energy Score Label – 2014 Competitive State Energy Plan Grant

AEO will work with relevant stakeholders to develop the ARHome Energy Score label – and corresponding database – to allow consumers, as well as, appraisers, realtors and builders and other stakeholders to compare home performance. By quantifying the energy efficiency measures and energy use in a standardized format will allow the market to more accurately respond to energy efficiency. AEO will work with DOE utilizing a national standard via the Home Energy Score tool to generate an Arkansas specific/branded label that can be further branded by individual residential energy efficiency programs. This will coincide with efforts to work with in-state MLS efforts to add fields relevant to energy efficiency. AEO will incorporate this label in its programs such as WAP and promote this as a free and voluntary tool for utility programs residential energy efficiency program.