



**City of Seattle Office of Sustainability
Green Jobs Taskforce
Seattle, WA**

On Earth Day 2009, Mayor Nickels announced a suite of new incentives and policies to meet his challenge of reducing building energy usage by 20% between 2005 and 2020. His Green Building Capital Initiative addresses both residential and commercial building stock, creating tools and financial resources that will help building owners save energy, save money and reduce Seattle's greenhouse gas footprint.

The pilot program will focus on residential sector energy auditing and retrofitting with a goal of weatherizing 5,000 homes in 18 months. Funded through a partnership with Puget Sound Energy and Seattle City Light, the audits will be available at \$95, a steep discount from the \$600 cost.

The pilot includes a public-private loan program through a partnership with a local community development financing institution. The city anticipates that about 20 percent of the residents who go through the audit process would be interested in retrofits. The pilot program would cost about \$20 million. The money would flow through the loan manager to the private contractors who do the weatherization work.

This case study is current as of April 2009. For the latest information, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/ENVIRONMENT/GBtaskforce.htm>, or contact Amanda Eichel, Amanda.Eichel@Seattle.Gov.

Timeline	The pilot program will run for 18 months until the end of 2010.
Region	The pilot program will cover the city of Seattle.
Objective	The goal of the pilot is to reduce energy use in Seattle, improve the energy efficiency of the city's building stock 20 percent by 2020, create jobs, and save homeowners money. The pilot program will ideally show investors, employers, utilities, and homeowners that conservation makes financial sense. Accomplishing this will involve making sure that funding, training programs, and policies are moving forward simultaneously.
Partners/Allies	An existing collaborative is focusing on workforce development. South Seattle Community College will be offering the training program. The City is also working closely with labor organizations,

**This case study is meant to give a snapshot of the program profiled here.
For the most up to date information on this program, please visit their website**

	the Office of Economic Development, the Office of Housing, and a nonprofit called the Seattle Jobs Initiative.
Constituents	The pilot weatherization program will serve homeowners who do not already qualify for the federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).
What is the source of capital/financing?	Funded through a partnership with Puget Sound Energy and Seattle City Light, the audits will be available at \$95, a steep discount from the \$600 cost. The pilot includes a loan program so residents will be able to make energy-saving home improvements. This revolving loan pool would be funded, in part, by \$1.2 million of federal stimulus money from the Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.
What is the payback mechanism?	Loans will be made primarily to homeowners to invest in upgrading lighting, furnaces, water heaters and windows. A tiered payment structure will provide a greater subsidy for the lowest income Borrowers. Loans will range from \$8,000 - \$20,000 depending on upgrades undertaken. Interest rates will be from 2–6 percent, depending on income. Loans of \$8,000 up to \$20,000 can be paid off over a period of time up to 15 years. Residents receive a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost, up to \$1500.
Hiring and Job Training	<p>Seattle has identified several possible delivery mechanisms to recruit homeowners to participate in the program. One example is to employ high school and college students to advertise the program by knocking on doors and installing compact florescent and low-flow showerheads. As the first contact with residents, they can also provide education about the availability of audits and weatherization options based on income. Other partners include participants in the Climate Action Now campaign, existing community networks like book clubs, church groups, PTAs, and realtors.</p> <p>The city envisions that either utility employees or a certified energy auditor will perform the audits. One proposal for how to connect homeowners with a contractor is to have an online bidding process. Homeowners' audit information would be uploaded to a web portal and contractors would bid on the project. Homeowners could then look at their file to see who has bid and then access financing from there. The loan counselor would manage the transition from audit to upgrade. Another option proposed by a labor coalition would be to recruit a number of homeowners in a specific area to the</p>

	program, bundle the contracts, and open the job to bidding. This could reduce costs and increase scale.
Training and Certification	The city has been working on developing a residential energy efficiency training and certification program for the past year through a partnership with the community colleges and Seattle King County Workforce Funding Collaborative (also called Second Chance Washington). The training program would graduate certified employees and also have a more formal recruitment and job matching function. The training program would start with soft skills and career counseling, moving up from basic auditing skills to more complex weatherization work as part of creating career pathways.
Reflections	Seattle would like to ensure that this is a long-term program, not just a two-year influx of money.
Resources	http://www.seattle.gov/ENVIRONMENT/GBtaskforce.htm