

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**REGULAR MEETING DATE:** September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING SPENDING FUNDS GENERATED THROUGH THE RENEWABLE ENERGY MITIGATION PROGRAM

**STAFF RESPONSIBLE:** Dylan Hoffman, Energy Program Manager

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**ISSUE STATEMENT:** This is the second reading of a resolution of the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners to approve \$414,850 in Renewable Energy Mitigation Program (REMP) funds for applications during the 2010 Green Key Grant cycle. An identical has already been approved by the Aspen City Council.

**BACKGROUND:** In January 2000, the Pitkin County Commissioners and the Aspen City Council adopted the Renewable Energy Mitigation Program (REMP). According to the REMP ordinance, the Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE) is responsible for developing proposals for spending funds collected by the REMP. Those proposals must be reviewed and approved by the CORE board. The attached Resolution contains projects recommended for approval by the CORE board.

The CORE board is comprised of: Patti Clapper (Pitkin County), Steve Casey (Holy Cross Energy), Steve Skadron (Aspen), Bill Boineau (Snowmass), Phil Overeynder (Aspen), Ed Cortez (Carbondale), and Bill Stirling (Energy 2000 Committee).

REMP funding procedures require approval by both Aspen City Council and Pitkin County Commissioners. The proposed expenditures total \$414,850 for this grant cycle. In addition, the Board of Directors of CORE requests approval of 360,000 in funds for operational expenses, community and mini grants, appliance rebates, and solar rebates for the 2011 calendar year.

The historical balances and incomes for the REMP fund are as follows:

Year	Year-End Balance	Income
2008	\$ 3,706,000	\$ 1,379,000
2009	\$ 2,118,000	\$ 2,486,000
2010	\$ 2,035,000	\$ 321,000

**LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:** This item supports the County's Strategic Issues in Environmental Protection (most notably, *Promotion of Energy Efficiencies, and Regional Activism on Environmental Issues*), and Regionalism (most notably, *Developing Broad Regional Policies, Regional Efficiencies, and Shared Vision*).

**KEY DISCUSSION ITEMS:** The BOCC and City Council have previously discussed these grant requests at a joint worksession on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. Both Council and the Board recommended moving forward with the REMP Resolution.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:** This item has no negative impact on the County General fund, but if approved, will allocate some additional funds to support the County Energy Management Programs.

**RECOMMENDED BOCC ACTION:** Approve the resolution after second reading and public hearing.

**ATTACHMENTS:**  
2010 REMP Resolution

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING  
SPENDING FUNDS GENERATED THROUGH THE  
RENEWABLE ENERGY MITIGATION PROGRAM**

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_-2010

1. On December 13, 1999, City Council approved Ordinance No. 55 adopting the Aspen/Pitkin Energy Conservation Code, and
2. The Aspen/Pitkin Energy Conservation Code allows that the funds be spent in accordance with a joint resolution by the Aspen City Council and the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners, and
3. Pursuant to the Agreement, the Board of the Community Office for Resource Efficiency approved a number of spending proposals, and
4. The spending proposals meet the screening criteria of affordable housing, cost-effectiveness, public visibility and education, environmental benefits, energy efficiency, leverage, unique opportunity, new technologies and green design.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Pitkin County, Colorado that: The Community Office for Resource Efficiency to negotiate and secure contracts and manage the installation and/or implementation of the following projects:

**1. AREday – recommended REMP award: \$5,000**

AREday’s mission is to promote education and awareness for renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. Originally founded as a project of CORE, AREday is now in its seventh year and is featuring its most robust lineup of speakers. This award would support their ongoing work to promote sustainability and educational awareness in the Roaring Fork Valley. They anticipate roughly 2,500 participants this year.

**2. Aspen Center for Environmental Studies – recommended REMP award: \$15,000**

ACES is moving into the second phase of its ‘net zero’ carbon goal at all four of its educational sites. Having completed an energy retrofit of the Hallam Lake Nature Preserve site, they are now focusing on the Catto Center at Toklat. Specifically, ACES is requesting support for the installation of a micro-hydro facility. The facility is projected to provide all of Toklat’s electricity needs and feed 2-8kW onto the grid per day. This award represents roughly 10% of the project cost.

**3. Aspen Community School - recommended REMP award: \$7,500**

The Aspen Community School, a public charter school, is in the middle of a major fundraising effort to retrofit and rebuild its entire Woody Creek campus.

Their grant requests support for design assistance and analysis funding. Their goal is to achieve CO-CHPS verification in order to create a demonstration/educational site and also reduce future energy costs. The requested funding will primarily address site design, lighting, and the HVAC systems. REG has been contracted to do the system's engineering for this project. ACS is currently awaiting response on a \$6.2 million BEST grant from the State of Colorado. The BEST grant requires that new buildings be either LEED Gold or CO-CHPS certified. CORE's Board recommends providing \$7,500 in design support should they meet their fundraising goals.

**4. Aspen Deaf Camp - recommended REMP award: \$15,000**

The Aspen Deaf Camp is retrofitting its 40 year old campus for general upgrades and efficiency improvements. Their project includes increased insulation, lighting retrofits, water fixture replacement, and appliance replacement with Energy Star models. CORE's Board recommends funding their boiler replacement up to \$15,000.

**5. Basalt Middle School - recommended REMP award: \$10,000**

The Town of Basalt's Green Team is applying for supplemental funding to install a PV system on the Basalt Middle School. This project was initiated when Basalt won the CAST Reusable Bag Challenge in 2009 and received \$10,000 toward a PV system on an area school. The system will be 7.3kW, which will produce roughly 13,000 kWh per year. This will save about 22,500 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The rest of their project funding has been secured.

**6. Colorado Rocky Mountain School - recommended REMP award: \$10,000**

CRMS is requesting funding to install solar hot water systems on three of its six dormitories. They estimate carbon savings of roughly 41,000 lbs per year. The systems will also reduce their energy costs.

**7. Flux Farm - recommended REMP award: \$7,300**

Flux Farm, a project of the Manaus Fund, has secured substantial funding from the Colorado Natural Resources Conservation Service to aid ranchers in assessing and installing rural micro-hydro systems. Flux Farm has requested funds to support its ongoing hydro electric work with rural land owners. Specifically, these funds would support two outreach events and educational materials for farmers and ranchers. Topics covered would include funding opportunities, the feasibility and installation process, FERC, energy savings and financial payback.

**8. Green Sprouts Foundation - recommended REMP award: \$5,000**

The Green Sprouts Foundation's goal is to help Valley schools go 'green'. The recommended funding would support a portion of a new PV installation at the Marble Charter School. Roughly 60% of the Charter School's students live in Pitkin County.

**9. Habitat for Humanity - recommended REMP award: \$5,400**

Habitat for Humanity-Roaring Fork is pursuing efficiency upgrades on many of its new building projects. These funds would support small solar installations on three new residential construction projects. They have partnered with Sunsense Solar, a local solar installer, to provide low cost materials and labor.

**10. Roaring Fork High School Garden Project - recommended REMP award: \$13,000**

The Roaring Fork High School Garden Project represents a partnership between the RE-1 School District and a collection of local agricultural organizations, particularly Fat City Farms and the Colorado Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute. The onsite greenhouse and garden will serve as a biology classroom during the school year and a farm school during the summer months. The food grown will be used in the school cafeteria and/or sold through the school's CSA. The model presented at the RFHS is an innovative approach to education and healthier living that is gaining rapid attention across the state. Their funding request would support the final installation and material purchase costs for the facility.

**11. Solar Energy International - recommended REMP award: \$5,000**

SEI is an internationally respected solar and green building education provider. They have also been running a successful Solar in the Schools program throughout the Roaring Fork Valley. This grant would support the Solar in the Schools program, including the purchase of new education materials.

**12. Third Street Non-Profit Center - recommended REMP award: \$22,010**

The Third St Center is a model for green building and includes such features as PV, solar hot water, extensive day lighting, a white roof, efficient lighting and much more. The Third St Center is now in its final phase of construction. This funding would support the purchase and installation of a transpired solar collector, which would reduce heating and cooling costs.

**13. Town of Snowmass Village - recommended REMP award: \$7,500**

The Town is replacing their boiler and clothes washers at the Mountain View affordable housing complex with more efficient models. As part of the project, they will also be installing a small solar hot water system to preheat the boiler. REMP's contribution represents about 40% of the project cost. These upgrades will save substantial amounts of water, energy and carbon, particularly due to their high volume of use.

**14. City of Aspen – recommended REMP award: \$156,858**

**The Canary Initiative and the ZGreen Program (\$112,200)**

The Canary Initiative provides a number of services to the community, including providing energy and emissions inventories and helping to manage the many

ZGreen programs. This funding would supplement staffing costs and the ZGreen program, specifically business outreach.

**The Car to Go program (\$16,658)**

The \$16,658 represents the cost difference between a standard light utility truck and a comparable hybrid vehicle. This purchase would complete their goal of becoming a 100% hybrid fleet.

**Retro-commissioning at Burlingame Phase I (\$13,000)**

The City is requesting funds to assess and update its systems controls to allow for optimal performance and energy savings.

**Burlingame Phase II design analysis (\$15,000)**

The design phase is the most cost effective time to implement energy saving and efficiency measures. The City would like to contract with the Building Science Corporation, a nationally recognized firm, to provide oversight during the design phase.

**15. Pitkin County – recommended REMP award: \$130,282**

**The Energy Smart Program through a revolving loan program (\$100,000)**

This funding would provide integral short term loans to area contractors that are working with Energy Smart participants. As a loan program, this fund would be constantly replenished by repayment to serve future Energy Smart customers.

**Audit incentives for Energy Smart participants (\$8,500)**

This funding would provide financial audit incentives to Energy Smart participants, who will be required to complete an energy audit before being able to take advantage of Energy Smart funding.

**Pitkin County's performance contracting program (\$17,282)**

Pitkin County is prepared to move forward on a facility wide performance contracting program, which is estimated to save 15-30% of their current energy consumption. This funding would cover the upfront technical audit costs.

**Efficiency upgrades to its new Data Center (\$4,500)**

Pitkin County is building a new Data Center, which will replace the current departmental data facilities. By nature, data facilities use quite a bit of energy and produce substantial amounts of heat. Using one site, instead of many, will significantly contribute to energy savings. This funding would allow for additional facility upgrades to optimize efficiency and heat recovery.

**16. CORE Board Funding Requests (\$360,000)**

**REMP Management Fee - \$90,000:** These funds include support for REMP advertising and program outreach, REMP grant and program administration, and energy and carbon analysis and reporting.

**Project Coordinator - \$75,000:** The Project Coordinator works on special projects associated with REMP and the reduction of greenhouse gases and serves as CORE’s grant writer. This request will fund the position’s salary and benefits during the 2011 calendar.

**CORE / REMP Financial and Legal Review - \$10,000:** These funds will be used to complete tax work and financial oversight for CORE.

**Community and Mini Grants - \$50,000:** Community and mini grants provide small scale support for renewable energy and green building projects in the Roaring Fork Valley. Mini grants fund projects up to \$1,000, and Community grants fund projects up to \$5,000.

**Appliance Rebates - \$35,000:** These funds will continue to support CORE’s appliance program. Currently, the program provides rebates for energy efficient clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, programmable thermostats and low flow toilets.

**PV and Solar Thermal Rebates - \$100,000:** These funds will continue to support CORE’s solar rebate program, including PV and solar thermal installations.

INTRODUCED, FIRST READ AND SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2010.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PUBLISHED IN THE ASPEN TIMES WEEKLY ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2010.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2010.

PUBLISHED AFTER ADOPTION IN THE ASPEN TIMES WEEKLY ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2009.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanette Jones  
Deputy Clerk & Recorder

By \_\_\_\_\_  
George Newman, Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MANAGER APPROVAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Ely, County Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hilary Fletcher, County Manager