



Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque & Jackson Counties

# East Central Intergovernmental Association

A Regional Response to Local Needs

Community & Economic Development, Employment & Training, Housing, Transit & Transportation

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## ECIA Executive Director Featured on Mediacom Newsleaders

ECIA's Executive Director, Kelley Deutmeyer was featured on the Mediacom Newsleaders program. Kelley provided an introduction to ECIA as well as background on current projects and her history with the organization. Kelley's interview is available for online viewing through the ECIA website. Scroll to the bottom of the ECIA homepage and click on "An Introduction to ECIA".

Mediacom Newsleaders is shown on channel MC22, which celebrates the people and communities served by Mediacom. Newsleaders features a variety of community leaders and highlights programming that benefits residents of the Mediacom service area.

## ECIA Receives Grant from the EDA for Re-Engagement Program

ECIA was recently awarded a \$40,653 grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to develop a workforce business plan by researching national models to determine best practices in reaching out to disengaged, unemployed and underemployed youth and dislocated workers in Dubuque County and to re-engage them into educational programs and opportunities, provide training, and re-training to place them in high demand jobs. This business plan model will become a workforce model for small metro and rural areas across the United States and can be replicated throughout the ECIA region. The total project cost is over \$80,000. ECIA is working with local partners on this project through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque's Project Hope initiative and those partners include Northeast Iowa Community College, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Dubuque Community School District and the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation. For Additional information on this project, please contact Ron Axtel, Assistant Director of Employment and Training or Kelley Deutmeyer, Executive Director at 563-556-4166.

## EIRHA Approved as an Official Adopter of National Industry Standards

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (EIRHA) has been approved as an official Adopter of the National Industry Standards for Homeownership Education and Counseling. The National Industry Standards for Homeownership Education and Counseling are a set of guidelines for quality homeownership and counseling services. Industry professionals who adopt these standards can be trusted to provide consistent, high quality advice.



Homeownership  
Done Right.™

## Loras College Becomes Petal Certified

Loras College is the second business in Dubuque to become Petal Certified through the Petal Project, a green business certification program. A green ribbon cutting was held December 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate this accomplishment.

The Petal Project, a program of ECIA, was designed to encourage organizations in eastern Iowa to adopt more environmentally friendly business practices. The program provides businesses with a simple framework for saving money and resources.

The Petal Project is divided into five categories: waste reduction, energy conservation, pollution prevention, staff education, and water conservation. When all mandatory and a specified number of optional criteria within a category are complete, the business is awarded that petal. After a business earns all five petals, it is Petal Certified.

Currently 18 businesses are participating in the program and two are fully certified – Finley Hospital and Loras College. For a complete list of participating businesses or to learn more about the program, visit [www.petal-project.com](http://www.petal-project.com).

## Peosta Awarded Grant Through IDPH

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) works with the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC) to identify rural communities throughout Iowa in need of wellness asset mapping. ECIA nominated the city of Peosta for the Iowans Fit for Life program. Peosta was accepted as one of six communities in the state of Iowa to receive a \$10,000 grant through the IDPH for this project. Iowans Fit for Life promotes increased opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating for Iowans of all ages. Ultimately, Iowans Fit for Life aims to improve the health of Iowans by reducing the risks and preventing disease related to inactivity and unhealthy eating behaviors. Peosta community members were charged with identifying wellness assets in the community, developing a wellness work plan, and determining how the \$10,000 award will be used to carry out the wellness work plan. Ultimately, Peosta community members decided to use the award to pay for a safety net to cover playground equipment next to the ball field to prevent accidents during ballgames. Healthier food options will also be added to the concession stand menu at the ball field. ECIA staff assisted community members through the process by coordinating the steering committee meetings, leading the asset mapping session, and drafting the work plan based on community input.



## RTA Black Tie Bowling “Fun-raiser”

It's Black Tie time again! The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will be holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual fundraiser, Black Tie Bowling, at Cherry Lanes on Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 5pm. As always, the event promises to be a lot of fun with games and prizes throughout the night! The event has four sponsorship levels that include advertising on the buses and many ways that businesses can get involved by donating to this wonderful event. Prizes this year include Iowa Hawkeye basketball tickets, a year membership for a family or grandparent to the National Museum and Aquarium, tickets to the Fighting Saints home game along with noisemakers and autograph picture of the team, and many, many more items to come! So save the date, lace up your bowling shoes and make it a striking night!

If you want to learn more about the RTA or about Black Tie Bowling please visit [www.rta8.org](http://www.rta8.org).

## Leisure Lake Wastewater System Funding Announced

The USDA Rural Development presented a Letter of Conditions to the Eastern Iowa Regional Utility Services Systems (EIRUSS) Board of Directors on December 8 that would provide funding for the Leisure Lake Wastewater System in rural Jackson County. EIRUSS is a 28E organization created by Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Jackson, and Jones counties to address water and wastewater issues in rural areas and small cities within those counties. Leisure Lake is an unincorporated community of over 300 homes, some permanent and some seasonal, in rural northwest Jackson County.

Currently wastewater in the community is less than adequate in many cases. The Iowa DNR ranked the community as its second highest priority area of need in the state. Staff has been working to secure funding since 2005 for this project. The project funding will consist of the USDA RD loan of \$2,656,000, a USDA RD grant of \$1,000,000, and an Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board grant of \$500,000. It is hoped that the project will go out for bids in spring 2012 with construction projected to take approximately one year.

For information about this project or EIRUSS contact Mark Schneider or Larry Nagle at (563) 556-4166 or 1-800-942-4648.



## Green Jobs Grant Progress

The Green Jobs grant that was awarded last year to ECIA Business Growth and facilitated through Northeast Iowa Community College has achieved its goal of 392 participants. Trainings offered included COSC Sustainable Construction, Wind Technology Training, RESNET Energy Auditing, BPI Analyst Courses, Infrared Camera training, Sustainable Construction training, Solar Thermal Installation courses, and Biodiesel workshops

A recent major success was the Dubuque Solar Thermal Installation Licensing. As a result of the NICC Solar Thermal Courses being offered through the Green Industry Training Initiative, Dubuque became the first city in Iowa to implement a city-wide solar thermal installation ordinance. Modeled after Madison, all installers must either be NABCEP certified or have successfully completed and passed the Solar Thermal Installation course and performed two installations.

NICC has expanded the Green Construction to include HVAC NCI certificate training. An NICC HVAC instructor also attended the training and is currently becoming certified as an NCI instructor. This means that the training will no longer have to be contracted out and can be taught in house.

The Four Mounds Energy Center welcomed Green Iowa AmeriCorps to Dubuque in February. This group has a focus of weatherization, education, and outreach. Starting in the end of February, seventeen HEART students and support staff were enrolled in the nine week training class covering: the house as a system, foundations and framing, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, roofs attic and insulation, alternative energies, and home auditing. All students successfully completed the nine week training course and passed the final comprehensive exam. Four Mounds has also offered community workshops, 19/60 individuals have attended these trainings so far.

One of the main difficulties was the lack of a working wind turbine which would allow hands on experience for the students. Most employers wanted individuals who had experience climbing the turbine towers before they were actually hired. A Wind Turbine tower was purchased for the Wind Program and was recently erected at the Calmar campus. This will greatly enhance the training opportunities in this area.

The Department of Labor announced in January 2010 the \$2,060,000 grant award to ECIA Business Growth Inc. and its partners; Northeast Iowa Community College, Dubuque Area Labor Management Council, United Labor Participation Committee, City of Dubuque, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Region 1 Employment and Training programs, Upperexploreland Council of Governments, Wisconsin Workforce Connections, Minnesota Workforce Development Inc., plus private partners including Clipper Turbine Works, Acciona Windpower, Independent Wind Turbine, LLC, Alliant Energy, Gronen Restoration/Properties, Loomis Plumbing and Heating, and K& K Gardens to develop and provide training programs for workers to enter the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, as well as green occupations within other industries. The funding was authorized through the Green Jobs Training grant program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

## RTA Cookbooks Available

Love to read cookbooks or need the perfect gift idea? The Delaware, Dubuque Jackson County Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is selling cookbooks with recipes from members of the community to raise funds for the RTA. All cookbook sales will go directly to the RTA. Cookbooks can be purchased for \$10.00 and are available at ECIA/RTA offices or at Calico Bean at 352 Bluff Street. You can also order one from any RTA bus driver. For more information contact Stacey Carpenter at ECIA at 563-556-4166 or 800-942-4648.