

## New Hybrid School Bus Boosts Efforts in Clinton to Reduce Fine Particle Air Pollution

Iowa's air contains a relatively high concentration of fine particles across the state—70 percent of the EPA's health threshold. Mix in prevailing winds, high automobile traffic areas, electricity generation, industry and open burning and areas in eastern Iowa are dangerously close to levels the EPA considers not clean.

Clinton Community School District purchased the first Thomas-Built Hybrid C2 school bus in Iowa which will help reduce air pollution levels in the city. This bus was purchased with a grant from the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) State Clean Diesel Grant Program. Clinton Community School District was selected because it is an area of concern for fine particle pollution (close to the EPA health threshold) and it operates several of the oldest, most polluting school buses in Iowa on regular daily routes. In fact, the bus that will be disabled when this new hybrid is put in operation is a 1983 Bluebird 84-passenger bus. The Health Effects Institute says the pollution emitted from one 1988 bus is equivalent to the amount 60 new diesel buses emit. The Thomas-Built hybrid bus is expected to emit 30 percent less than a new diesel bus.

More about reducing diesel exhaust and the Diesel Emissions Recovery Act is available at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/air/RIDE/index.html> and <http://www.epa.gov/diesel/>. CONTACT: Mindy Kralicek, DNR Air Quality Information Specialist and DERA Grant Manager, (515) 281-7832, [Mindy.Kralicek@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Mindy.Kralicek@dnr.iowa.gov)



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# ECIA

# news Alert

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## ECIA Business Growth and Partners awarded \$2 Million in Green Jobs Training Funds

The Department of Labor announced a \$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, Upper Exploreland 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. The initiative will develop three separate career ladders to connect workers to green jobs in renewable electric power, energy efficient assessment, and energy efficient building. These three paths include A.A.S. and diploma technician programs in Wind Turbine Repair, as well as RESNET Home Energy Rater training, and Green Building Professional certifications for residential and commercial construction. Recruitment, placement, retention, and supportive services to enable trainee participation and subsequent successful employment will be integrated into the training activities. "This is an exciting opportunity for Northeast Iowa, Southern Minnesota, and Southwest Wisconsin. There were only 25 awards nationally. The strength of our partnership and the vision for future green jobs employment opportunities in a growing industry gave our partnership the edge in being selected for the funding," said Kelley Deutmeyer, Executive Director of East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA). The program will benefit residents in a 27 county region across Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. In Iowa this includes Allamakee, Bremer, Buchanan, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Howard, Jackson, Jones, Mitchell and Winneshiek Counties. The program will serve 392 participants during the life of the two year grant with the initial target audience of unemployed and dislocated workers, high school graduates, veterans, disconnected youth, women, and minorities.

## Loney set to retire after 20 years of service

Jim Loney, Maintenance Manager with the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority retired on January 4, 2010. Jim has been with ECIA since March 1989 serving in various capacities. During his tenure, Jim began employment with ECIA as a part-time Summer Youth Specialist and later worked as both an Employment/Training and Promise Jobs Specialist, he then moved to Project Manager with the CDBG programs and lastly served as Maintenance Manager with the Housing Authority. Jim's hard work and commitment to his position will be a huge void to fill for the Housing Authority. Plans for retirement include travelling Route 66 with his wife, Carol and spending time with his children and grandchildren. We wish Jim many years of happy travels and will miss him and his positive attitude immensely.



Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study ● Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority  
Region I Employment and Training ● ECIA Regional Planning Affiliation ● ECIA Business Growth, Inc.  
Eastern Iowa Regional Utility Services System ● Eastern Iowa Development Corporation  
Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson Regional Transit Authority ● Prosperity Eastern Iowa

## Newly Elected EIRHA/ EIRHC Board of Directors

At the November 12, 2009 Annual Meeting of Commissioners of the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority and Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Corporation the following commissions were elected to the EIRHA/EIRHC Board of Directors:

Clinton County:  
**Joanne Guise, Delmar**  
**Cheryl Kastantin, Wheatland**  
**Linda Duesing, DeWitt**

Delaware County:  
**Cliff Bunting, Manchester**  
**Roger Hanson, Manchester**  
**Linda Gaul, Earlville**  
**Lenfred Phelps, Colesburg**

Dubuque County:  
**Robert Brunkan, Dyersville**  
**Merrill Smock, Worthington**  
**Bill Rediger, Dyersville**  
**Shelley Knepper, Cascade**

Jackson County:  
**Mary Gibson, Preston**  
**Rita Cavanagh, Sabula**  
**Kenneth Donovan, Andrew**

Jones County:  
**Sherry Hatfield, Monticello**  
**Libby Tuel, Anamosa**

Officers elected for this year are Merrill "Bud" Smock, President; Linda Duesing, Vice-President; Robert Brunkan, Treasurer; and Kelley Hutton Deutmeyer, Secretary.

Congratulations to all. We appreciate your time and contribution to these boards.



## ECIA Submits Five Year CEDS 2010 through 2014

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) five-county region has been updated and submitted to the Economic Development Administration for the next five years (2010-2014). The CEDS is being utilized in the region to monitor and evaluate our long term economic goals and strategies and to coordinate the economic development activities in the region. It is the intent of the CEDS document and the process to be used as a tool for developing goals and strategies that will guide the economic growth of the region. In addition to the five year CEDS plan; ECIA updates the report annually showing the progress each year toward reaching the five year goals.

Community input was received from a series of meetings with local leaders providing for a strategy that is a vision for the economic future of the region. Input for the development of this report was received from local community leaders, economic developers, schools, private business, etc. The CEDS reflects on the history of the region, identifies trends, and establishes goals for the future both short and long range, and connects our limitations and advantages to our goals and objectives, establishing a foundation and a working plan for the economic future of the region.

The CEDS Committee, with input from local representation, updated the goals, tasks, performance measures, schedule, and evaluation indicators for the region. The goals and objectives adopted for the upcoming five years are as follows:

### CEDS Goals and Objectives - Defining Regional Expectations as reported in the 2010-2014 CEDS

- Increase/Expand the Economic Segments in the Region
- Create a Skilled, Highly Educated, Permanent, Full-Time Workforce for Business and Industry
- Facilitate the Improvement and Maintenance of the Housing Stock and Housing Supply in the Region
- Promote Improvement of Basic Public Works Facilities and Community Services which Improve the Public's Health, Safety, and Living Conditions
- Promote and encourage sustainability throughout the region

For a copy of the full CEDS report, visit [www.ecia.org](http://www.ecia.org). If you need any additional information, please contact Kelley Deutmeyer, Executive Director or Marla Quinn, Grants and Development Coordinator at 563-556-4166.

*Happy New Year from  
the ECIA Team!*

## Flood Recovery Work Continues

Flood recovery and related projects continue to progress in eastern Iowa. ECIA continues to oversee the regional recovery efforts with its sister agencies, Bi-State Regional Planning Commission and Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Council, as well as the City of Davenport. ECIA is administering projects located within the City of Dubuque. Projects in the ECIA region include the following with similar projects ongoing in the balance of the flood region.

Eighteen substantially damaged houses in Cedar County were demolished utilizing FEMA Public Assistance funds. Seventy households have applied for Jumpstart rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, and/or interim mortgage assistance.

Through FEMA, the State of Iowa, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), approvals for the proposed buyouts of flood-damaged properties have been received. Cedar County will acquire 21 properties, the City of Dyersville will acquire 27 properties, and the City of Manchester will acquire 6 properties. The city of Dyersville will utilize IDIED's Supplemental Flood Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to acquire 10 additional properties.

The City of Dyersville is also utilizing Single-Family New Production (SFNP) to provide homebuyer assistance to 16 households with their purchase of newly constructed homes. ECIA is awaiting final rules for a second round of the Single-Family New Production program. Staff has contacted many ECIA communities to determine interest, need, and feasibility for this program.

Please contact Mark Schneider at ECIA at 563-556-4166 or 1-800-942-4648 if you have questions regarding the flood recovery efforts throughout the ECIA region or the second round of the SFNP program.

## EIRHA Receives I-JOBS Improved Green Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices Grant

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (EIRHA) was recently awarded an I-JOBS Improved Green Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices grant in the amount of \$11,099.00 from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The grant application submitted by EIRHA was selected out of a total of 35 grant applications by an Iowa DNR evaluation committee.

The grant funds received by EIRHA will be used to construct a rain garden in the city of Dyersville at the Mercy Park Villa Apartments, which is a 14-unit Public Housing complex owned and operated by EIRHA. The city of Dyersville, much like other urbanized areas, encounters common pollutants which are carried into local streams and groundwater from storm water runoff. This runoff often includes pollutants which have accumulated off roofs, lawns, sidewalks, streets, compacted soils, and parking lots. The installation of a rain garden will divert an estimated 121,600 gallons of storm water runoff annually; significantly reducing the amount of pollutants entering local streams and groundwater. Installation is anticipated to begin in July 2010, and to be fully completed by September 2010. For more information on the program, contact Mindy Wiley, Family Support Coordinator/Site Manager at 563-588-1963.



With so many businesses advertising some type of green or eco-friendly product, how does any consumer understand what each company's definition of "green" is? It was with this question in mind that Prosperity Eastern Iowa embarked on its research of green business certification programs.



Candace Eudaley

The result of many conference calls, internet searches, and funding support from the Iowa Department of Economic Development is the Petal Project. The Petal Project is a regional green business certification providing a framework for organizations dedicated to reducing their energy, water and natural resource use to benefit the environment and their bottom line. The Petal Project certification criteria is divided into five categories creating an organized approach to reaching a businesses' sustainability goals—one petal at a time. The five areas include: energy conservation, pollution prevention, staff education, waste reduction, and water conservation. In the coming year, the Petal Project will be completed by ten area businesses, the Petal Project 10 in 2010. The ten businesses will be unveiled at the end of January, and begin working through the program with the help of Prosperity Eastern Iowa staff and local college interns. For additional information on how your business or community can participate, contact Candace Eudaley, Economic Development & Sustainability Coordinator at 563-556-4166.