

ECIA Spotlight

December, 2016



ECIA's Solar Dream a Reality!

The ECIA ground-mounted solar array has been installed and is generating electricity! After 18 months of planning the system has become a reality. In addition to the solar array, LED bulbs were installed in all offices replacing fluorescent bulbs to lower the electric usage, which will generate an even greater savings than was projected. The solar array was projected to save ECIA approximately \$8,566 in electric bills (84% savings) at current utility rates in the first year. Over 25 years, with projected utility rate increases, annual utility savings are anticipated to average \$14,689 per year, for a total savings of \$367,217. The \$114,430 investment project was made feasible with a \$25,000 grant through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque's Grants to Green program, an Energy Efficiency Loan (EELF) (which provides a 1% interest rate over a five-year term and 20% is forgiven as an energy efficiency rebate), and the balance taken from the ECIA building reserve. Special thanks to the ECIA Council for their support and vision in making our solar project a reality!

Thank You SNAP Program Sponsors

Soyer Leaving ECIA



We are sad to announce that ECIA's Municipal Relations Coordinator, Jenna Soyer, will be leaving ECIA December 30th. Jenna will be taking a position at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Madison beginning in January as the Fiscal and Information Technology Section Chief in the Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment. Jenna will be in charge of the Bureau's annual budget; will oversee the State of Wisconsin's petroleum cleanup fund and all

The Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP) helps support individuals and families who are chronically homeless and also who are disabled, have barriers related to substance abuse, and/or who are HIV/AIDS positive. SNAP, which is federally funded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD), was granted to the City of Dubuque Housing. ECIA's non-profit entity, the East Central Development Corporation, is the project sponsor. The grant program covers rent and utilities along with deposits for both. With local match funds provided by United Way of Dubuque Area Tri States, Mercy Hospital and Dubuque County, day to day living expenses will be covered, and extra time with clients for: goal setting, organize supports to maintain housing, and problem-solving skills for emergency situations. These local partners are a critical piece in providing better service to our SNAP households and we are truly grateful.

East Central Brownfields Coalition

In May 2016, ECIA, as the lead partner of the East Central Brownfields Coalition, was awarded \$550,000 from the U.S. EPA to conduct environmental site assessments throughout the region. The program began in October, and a Coalition Steering Committee of local representatives from the ECIA region was formed that will help guide the program. The Coalition Steering Committee has been busy this fall with the procurement of a technical consultant and a "Request for Services" application posted on the website for communities interested in environmental assessment services covered under the grant.

In addition, ECIA has been working with a graduate group from the University of Iowa to develop a brownfields inventory and prioritization process, and has hired an AmeriCorps member to help conduct trainings and outreach. Stay tuned for more information.

Freight Study Update

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS) and the Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA 8) released a request for proposals for the freight study in September of 2016. Staff received five proposals and interviewed four different consultants, and have narrowed the search down to one: CPCS Transcom. Staff is in process of negotiating a contract.

DMATS and the RPA 8, in partnership with Blackhawk Hills Regional Council (BHH), northwest Illinois' regional planning commission, are collaborating on a multimodal, intermodal freight study for the eight-county region of Dubuque, Delaware, Jackson and Clinton counties in Iowa and Jo Daviess, Carroll, Stephenson and Whiteside counties in Illinois. The study will include development of a regional freight model, creation of a commodity flow database, and prioritization of future improvements. When complete, the study will provide key recommendations for existing and future roadways, rail, river, intermodal, and other freight facilities. The freight study is expected to start after December 15, 2016.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Grant Program	Due Date
<u>Farm to School Grant Program</u>	8-Dec-16

contracts and grant cooperative agreements for the Bureau; will lead the process for automation and streamlining of records; will oversee technical and policy staff; and will be an active member of the R&R Management Team leading the strategic direction of the Bureau. Jenna on her leaving: "It is bittersweet that I will be moving on. I have really enjoyed working with ECIA staff and our partners out in the community, and am grateful for the opportunities I have been given. I hope that in my short time at ECIA, I have been able to make a positive impact on our communities. I will truly miss the passionate people who I've been fortunate to work with over the last two years!"

ECIA Annual Report Available



ECIA has released their Annual Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. In fiscal year 2016, ECIA assisted local communities and counties through numerous activities and projects impacting the five-county region of Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson Counties. Click the image above to view the annual report.

<u>Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT)</u>	15-Jan-17
<u>River Enhancement CAT Grant (RECAT)</u>	15-Jan-17
<u>Foundation for the Future of Delaware County</u>	31-Jan-17
<u>RISE—Local Development</u>	1-Feb-17
<u>Community Foundation of Cedar County</u>	15-Feb-17
<u>Keep Iowa Beautiful – Paint Iowa Beautiful</u>	17-Feb-17
<u>Dubuque Racing Association</u>	24-Feb-17
<u>The Wellmark Foundation - Healthy Communities Small Grant Program</u>	Typically due in February

Warmest Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes for Happiness in the New Year....



...from your friends at ECIA.

Support ECIA While You Shop!

Last year, the ECIA Council approved creating a 501c3, in order to apply for grants for ECIA and for projects in our region that need a fiscal sponsor. The East Central Development Corporation (ECDC) is a non-profit corporation focused on revitalizing the ECIA five-county area while serving low to moderate income communities and households and working with underserved neighborhoods that have experienced significant disinvestment. The range of projects ECDC will be involved in includes affordable housing development and rehabilitation, economic and community development related projects, downtown revitalization, and neighborhood planning projects.

If you shop on Amazon (especially with the Holidays approaching), and would like to support ECDC, you may do so [here](#). Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.



Like us on Facebook today!

Tel: (563) 556-4166
 Toll Free: (800) 942-4648
 Fax: (563) 556-0348
 Web: www.ecia.org