



EDA Update

Volume 1; Issue 3

EDA Reauthorization

EDA is pleased to announce that the Department of Commerce sent the Congress a legislative proposal to reauthorize EDA for five years. EDA's current authorization expires September 30, 2008. The proposed reauthorization legislation is good news for you, the economic development community, in that it includes some new provisions that offer investment recipients greater flexibility with, and more local control of, revolving loan funds and construction grants. These provisions demonstrate how EDA is listening to, and acting upon, the economic development community's calls for improved EDA programs to meet our customers' changing needs in the 21st century economy.

Please monitor www.eda.gov for more information as this legislation progresses through Congress.

2008 National Summit on American Competitiveness

The U.S. Department of Commerce will convene the 2008 National Summit on American Competitiveness in Chicago on **May 22, 2008**.

Hosted by Carlos M. Gutierrez, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, with honorary co-chairs Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago and Ronald J. Gidwitz, former CEO of Helene Curtis, the Summit will focus on a variety of topics surrounding America's competitive position. Other topics addressed during the Summit include entrepreneurship, free trade agreements, as well as strategies and best practices for successful economic transformation.

This event will gather the nation's premier leaders in business, government and academia. Some confirmed participants include:

- Henry Paulson, Jr., U.S. Secretary of the Treasury
- Maria Bartiromo of CNBC
- Steve Chen, Co-Founder and CTO, YouTube
- Craig Barrett, Chairman of the Board, Intel
- W. James (Jim) McNerney, Jr., Chairman of the Board, President and CEO, The Boeing Company

The closing town hall session provides an opportunity for

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APA's Economic Development Toolbox Part Two: Quality of Life

"Quality of life" is a term used to describe various, sometimes intangible factors that make a community attractive to live in. A quality-of-life strategy assumes government or some type of public/private partnership is able to have a significant influence on these factors and improve them over time. In theory, new businesses will be attracted to communities with the most appropriate combination of factors, and existing businesses will expand for the same reason. People also use quality of life indicators to measure neighborhood and community desirability.

For more information and a list of Quality of Life attraction factors, visit: www.planning.org/eda/#2

EDA's Regional Conference:

Beyond Innovation: Partnerships and Comprehensive Strategies for Transforming our Regional Economies

EDA's Chicago and Philadelphia regional offices will host a regional conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio, beginning **May 12-14, 2008**.

The conference will offer economic developers from 19 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands opportunities to expand their regional development

attendees to direct questions to several program participants as well as to Secretary Gutierrez.

Registration and information can be found at:

www.americancompetitiveness.com

Seeing Green (Energy) in Rural Florida

EDA Investment Spurs Environmental and Economic Benefits

When Green Circle Bio Energy Inc. decided to open a new wood pellet plant, it chose Cottondale, Florida, in Jackson County. This rural county in Florida's panhandle is now emerging as an alternate energy industry cluster, following an economic transition due to a declining timber industry and a changing agricultural base.

Strong regional leadership in the area was also instrumental in creating this alternate energy industry cluster. Investing nearly \$1.2 million, the U.S. Economic Development Administration's assistance to this region has included water, sewer, and road infrastructure improvements to attract new businesses. Now, Green Circle Bio Energy Inc. has invested \$93 million to construct the new alternative energy production facility. This wood pellet facility will produce an annual capacity of 560,000 tons of wood pellets to be supplied to central heating companies and the power generating industry for co-firing in coal based power plants. The wood pellets, made from sawdust and pulpwood, help reduce fossil fuel use and subsequent CO2 emissions, providing a cleaner alternative energy source. Over 50 new direct jobs – and an additional 100 jobs generated by suppliers – are expected as a result of this wood pellet facility.

This will be the largest wood pellet production company in North America, and 100 percent of its production is under contract for export to Europe. The facility considered locating in Russia and South America, but after much analysis, chose to locate in Florida's panhandle, close to the raw materials needed to produce its pellets. A first-of-its-magnitude initiative, it will eventually export these pellets across the globe. Not only will the facility use energy saving methods in its construction, but will also be powered with electricity from the local Waste Management landfill, and tree bark from the pulpwood will fuel the furnaces.

Rising gas and oil prices and growing concerns of climate change are creating a growing demand for energy alternatives. Forward-thinking businesses, such as Green Circle Bio Energy are capitalizing on this demand and are finding that environmental considerations are not a hindrance to the bottom line, but rather, a source of innovation and an opportunity for growth. In the case of Green Circle Bio Energy, this growth will aid in transitioning northern Florida to more efficient alternative fuel choices, while also creating more higher-skill, higher-

knowledge and expertise, exchange ideas and information with their peers, and meet with regional EDA staff.

For more information or to register for the conference visit:

www.edaconference.com

Coming Soon!

April 27 - May 1, 2008

APA's 100th National Planning Conference, Las Vegas [[Website](#)]

May 5-7, 2008

National Brownfields Conference, Detroit, (APA co-sponsor) [[Website](#)]

May 5-6, 2008

IEDC: Real Estate Development and Reuse, Billings, MT [[Website](#)]

May 12-14, 2008

Beyond Innovation: Transforming Our Regional Economies Through Partnerships, Cleveland [[Website](#)]

May 22, 2008

2008 National Summit on American Competitiveness [[Website](#)]

September 9-10, 2008

EDA's Denver and Seattle regional offices will host the Peak Performance in Economic Development Conference at the Denver Convention Center in Denver, Colorado.

ETA's Workforce Innovations 2008

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's flagship conference, **Workforce Innovations 2008: Success Decoded**, will be held July 15 – 17, in New Orleans. Meet and network with thousands of leaders from workforce development, economic development, business, education, community-based organizations, and philanthropy.

wage jobs as the company builds more and continues to engage in the worldwide marketplace.

For more information on Green Circle Bio Energy Inc., visit: www.greencirclebio.com/index.php

Visit WorkforceInnovations.org for further information and to register.

EDA Federal Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunities focused on regional curriculum implementation and economic development research

EDA has published notification of the agency's regional curriculum implementation and economic development research funding opportunities. The regional curriculum implementation opportunity seeks the nationwide dissemination of a learning curriculum based on regionalism through workshops and other communication methods. EDA's research opportunities seek academic research to advance understanding of the following three economic development topics: **1) Regional Innovation Systems; 2) Urban Economic Development Policy; 3) Global Economic Development Strategy.**

These opportunities are posted on EDA's Web site at www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Lawsreg.xml or search for EDA's current funding opportunities on the Grants.gov Web site at www.grants.gov.

Save America's Treasures grant applications now available

Save America's Treasures matching grants are awarded for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and historic structures and sites. Eligible applicants include Federal (including NPS), state, local and tribal government entities and nonprofit organizations. **Applications are due May 20, 2008.** Application guidelines can be found at: www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/application.htm or www.grants.gov.

Preserve America grant program applications now available

The Preserve America matching-grant program provides funding to support preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education and historic preservation planning. Eligible applicants include Designated Preserve America Communities and Neighborhoods, State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and Certified Local Governments in the process of applying for Preserve America Community Designation. **Applications are due June 30, 2008.** Guidelines and applications are available at:

www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/PreserveAmerica/index.htm



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