

CSI WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUES TOMMORROW :

[Commuting and Transit Innovations: Wed., December 9, 2009 at 1 pm EST \(60 minutes\)](#)

This webinar will feature models that encourage use of mass transit to help communities relieve traffic congestion and cut greenhouse gas emissions by reducing vehicle miles traveled. We will feature Boulder's EcoPass (Martha Roskowski - City of Boulder, [Go Boulder](#) Program Manager), San Francisco's commuter tax benefit ordinance (Stuart Baker - Accor Services, Commuter Check and Lillian Chan - City of San Francisco, Transportation Demand Management Coordinator), and others.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our webinar on [Statewide Retrofit Financing Models](#). Experts from Center for Working Families, Delta Consulting, Green for All, Public Sector Consulting, the Kansas State Energy Office, and an Oregon State Representative joined CSI to discuss financing models for statewide weatherization and building retrofit programs in Kansas, Michigan, New York, and Oregon

For information on future Webinar topics and recordings of previous Webinars, visit: www.stateinnovation.org/webinars.aspx

Spotlight on State Innovations

Statewide Retrofit Loan Program Launched

November 17, 2009

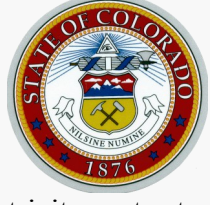
Kansas [Governor Mark Parkinson](#) launched a new revolving loan program to finance energy efficiency retrofits for homes and small businesses. The [Efficiency Kansas](#) loan program is a public-private partnership that will direct \$34 million federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds through private utilities and lenders into communities. Loans up to \$20,000 for homes and \$30,000 for small businesses will be available for approved projects. Each project is required to undergo a comprehensive energy audit to ensure the projected energy efficiency savings cover or exceed the cost of the home or building improvement. The first 1,000 participants will be provided a \$350 rebate toward the cost of the energy audit. The program is anticipated to save 165 trillion BTUs statewide and reduce heating and cooling bills by 20 percent per participating household.



Energy Efficiency and CO2 Reduction Goals

December 2, 2009

Colorado [Governor Bill Ritter](#) released a new [study](#) that lays out a plan for Colorado's electricity sector to increase energy efficiency, reduce CO2 emissions by 20% over 10 years, expand investments in utility-scale renewable energy and new high-voltage transmission, and increase the role of natural gas. Funded by a U.S. Department of Energy grant, the [Renewable Energy Development Infrastructure \(REDI\) study](#) outlines several steps for utility and energy groups to reduce the gap between the state's goal of reducing carbon emissions and emissions projected based on minimum compliance with the regulations. Recommendations include: improve energy efficiency, conservation and "demand-side management" techniques available to industry, business and consumers; hasten construction of high-voltage electric power transmission from renewable resource areas; increase investment in utility-scale renewable energy facilities; and reduce power generation from least efficient coal-fired generation stations.



Climate Adaptation Strategy

December 2, 2009



California [Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) announced the release of the 2009 California [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Report](#). In November 2008, Gov. Schwarzenegger's Executive Order S-13-08, called for state agencies to develop strategies to manage against the future effects of climate change, such as rising temperatures and sea levels, changing weather patterns, and other natural events; this report is the result. The report summarizes predicted climate change impacts in seven sectors including Public Health; Biodiversity and Habitat; Ocean and Coastal Resources; Water Management; Agriculture; Forestry; and Transportation and Energy Infrastructure; and provides recommendations to manage those threats. Many state agencies, including Natural Resources; Environmental Protection; Business, Transportation and Housing; Health and Human Services; and Agriculture, contributed to its development.

Fresh Water Wind Power

December 1, 2009

New York [Governor David Paterson](#) and the [New York Power Authority](#) released a [request for proposals](#) (RFP) for the construction of utility scale, offshore wind power projects in Lake Erie and/or Lake Ontario. The Great Lakes Offshore Wind Project would be the first of its kind to tap the wind power in the Great Lakes. The wind power projects should generate from 120 to 500 megawatts and have the capability to interconnect with the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) Transmission System.



December Reports in Energy and Environment

[America on the Move: State Leadership in the Fight against Global Warming and What it Means for the World](#)

State level policies have the potential to reduce CO2 emissions by 536 million metric tons by 2020. This report by the [Environment America Research and Policy Center](#) reviews energy savings and emissions reductions from selected state and federal policies such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), lighting efficiency standards, Recovery Act efficiency programs, updated Building Energy Codes, state and federal clean car programs, appliance standards, and Energy Efficiency Resource Standards.

[The Impact of Wind Power Projects on Residential Property Values in the United States](#)

The [Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](#) has found no conclusive evidence that wind power projects produce a negative impact on residential housing values. Specifically, neither the view of the wind facilities nor the distance of the home to those facilities is found to have any consistent, measurable, and statistically significant effect on home sales prices.

[Pollution in People: Cord Contaminants in Minority Newborns](#)

The [Environmental Working Group](#) has found up to 232 toxic chemicals in the umbilical cord blood of 10 babies from racial and ethnic minority groups. The findings constitute hard evidence that each child was exposed to a host of dangerous substances while still in its mother's womb. To ensure a full accounting of chemical exposure before birth, the report recommends that the CDC initiate a comprehensive cord blood-testing program.

[Green Buildings and Job Creation Model Legislation](#)

Buildings account for a significant proportion of energy use, 72% of the nation's electricity consumption, and 38% of CO2 emissions. Establishing or strengthening state 'green' building standards has the potential to reduce the operating costs and environmental impact of public buildings. The [Progressive States Network](#) developed cost-neutral model legislation, based on state best practices, to establish standards for energy efficient buildings that make use of Federal recovery funds to finance residential and public building retrofits.

UNIVERSAL VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS: A FINANCIALLY SECURE RETIREMENT
Monday, December 14, 2009, 1:00-3:00 CST

To Register: www2.gotomeeting.com/register/791389587

The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law is hosting a free webinar to discuss Universal Voluntary Retirement Accounts (UVRAs). Speakers will discuss the current issues surrounding the US retirement savings framework, workers' preparedness for retirement, and the data supporting the need for a UVRA program for low and middle-income individuals. Webinar participants will gain an understanding of UVRAs and the current state and federal legislative proposals.

If you have a program or report you'd like other states to know about, something you think we should include in the newsletter, or other questions or comments, please contact us:

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