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State of New Mexico Awarded \$715,000 To Advance Energy Efficiency in Public Facilities

SANTA FE, NM -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced this week that the State of New Mexico will be awarded \$715,000 to advance energy efficiency in state buildings. The award will expand energy efficiency efforts by the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Energy Conservation and Management Division (ECMD), the General Services Department (GSD), and the New Mexico Finance Authority.

“We are proud that New Mexico was selected for this award as part of a competitive process open to all 50 states and 6 territories,” said ECMD Director Louise Martinez. “This award will help establish New Mexico state government as a leader in increasing energy savings in public buildings and lay the groundwork for expansion of energy efficiency in the private sector.”

ECMD teamed up with the GSD to present a winning proposal for DOE’s 2012 State Energy Program Competitive Solicitation this past spring. EMNRD’s proposal, called “WISE” (**W**hole-Building Investments in **S**ustainable **E**fficiency), requested \$750,000. Awards were given to New Mexico and twelve other states that effectively demonstrated plans for cutting-edge programs that will dramatically increase energy efficiency in public buildings. WISE will be self-sustaining, grow into a statewide program, and include a continuous improvement component.

“This is a win-win for New Mexicans,” said Ed Burckle, GSD Cabinet Secretary. “The mission of GSD is to make state government more efficient. By making these energy-saving upgrades, we will save taxpayer money while leading by example in the field of energy conservation.”

Over the past few years, GSD, through a grant provided by ECMD, implemented numerous energy efficiency measures on state buildings that are already generating utility bill savings. Additionally, GSD performed several building energy audits to identify potential energy-saving projects that will help initiate WISE.

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