

Green Tips For Employees:

- Set your computer to hibernate or standby after 30-60 minutes of no use and set your monitor to sleep after 5-10 minutes of no use.
- Use a power strip so that you have a central “turn off” point when you are done using equipment to completely disconnect power supply.
- Unplug cell phones and laptops once they are charged. Adapters continue to use energy even when not charging.
- Replace your desk lamp light with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb. Those bulbs last up to 10 times longer and use about 75% less energy.
- Create a green team with your co-workers to build support for energy efficiency and waste reduction in the work place. Set a goal to make your building an ENERGY STAR qualified building.
- Learn more at energystar.gov/work

-ENERGY STAR

Municipal Environment Initiative: Yahoo Group

One of the services being provided by the Municipal Environment Initiative is a Yahoo Group name “stlmei” which stands for St. Louis County Municipal Environment Initiative. This Yahoo Group allows members to ask each other questions about environmental initiatives, ordinances, policies, and information. The list of members continues to increase. Creve Coeur, University City, Ferguson, Clayton, Town and Country, Rock Hill, Kirkwood, Maplewood, and Olivette are all members of the growing group.

Along with being connected to a network focused on environmental issues, joining the group

will provide access to pertinent information. Every week, files are added to the group’s page. The uploaded documents include the ICLEI report and action plan from Creve Coeur, St. Louis County’s spring recycling newsletter, and the March 2009 MEI Newsletter. Other information that will be on the group’s page are the available grants from the Recovery Act and a list of useful websites. As municipalities make use of the information, the group becomes a great place to learn from each other by sharing knowledge and experiences benefiting the entire County community.

The plethora of information and resources are

great reasons to become a member. If you are interested in joining please follow these directions:

- 1) If you do not have a yahoo account, please create one.
- 2) Sign into Yahoo.
- 3) Once logged in, click on the Groups link on the left hand side of the page.
- 4) Search for the group which is named **stlmei**
- 5) Click JOIN

After you go through this process, the St. Louis County Municipal League will approve your request to join. If you have difficulties please email staff@stlmuni.org.

Ferguson Ordinance Sets Green Goals

The City of Ferguson has taken a bold step forward in their environmental commitment to their citizens and the earth. Energized by a citizen, Councilmember Dwayne T. James went to work creating an environmental ordinance. On Feb-

ruary 24, 2009, the Ferguson City Council passed an ordinance related to energy efficiency, recycling, and building regulations.

This ordinance set a couple strong environmental benchmarks. Ferguson has committed to reducing en-

ergy usage by 30% and reducing waste by 20% over the next five years. To achieve these goals, past ordinances had to be amended in order to comply. Recycling receptacles are now required at any event (continued on pg. 2)

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act: Environmental Grant Opportunities

As the current administration's Recovery Act funding is allocated, many opportunities exist for municipalities to access grants for environmental projects. Different agencies have made grants specifically targeted to environmental issues. For instance, the Department of Energy has allocated \$229 million to Missouri with \$128,148,027 for Weatherization, \$57,393,000 for the State Energy Program, and \$43,779,300 for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The EECBG funds projects that aim to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions and for improvements in energy efficiency. The EECBG will give direct funding for these project types to municipalities with populations greater than 35,000, and is available to municipalities with populations under 35,000 through application. The Department of Natural Resources stated that these funds are estimated to be available for distribution in the summer of 2009 as regulations continue to be written.

Grants.gov

To find further funding opportunities, municipalities can search the grants.gov website. The available

money is targeted to a whole range of issues including many environmental initiatives. These address such topics as those previously discussed, but also incorporate more specific actions. For example there are a few grants from the Environmental Protection Agency targeting diesel emissions and different initiatives that can address the issue such as fitting devices on diesel trucks that lessen pollution. Other grants are concerned with job training for brownfield clean up. Many different environmental projects are targeted and made possible by the stimulus money.

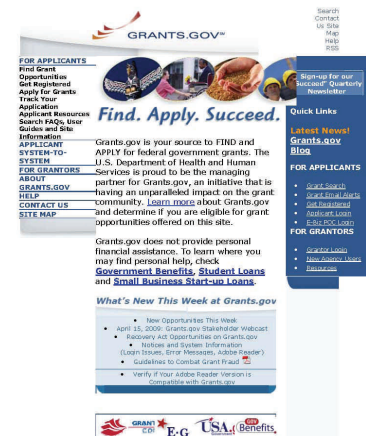
Many of these grants already have opened their application process but others will be doing so over the coming months. Grants can be searched through by key word, agency/department, Recovery Act, or category of funding. After searching and finding the grants of interest, continue to check the website regularly to keep abreast of the available opportunities and any updates that might have occurred.

The Municipal League will also be compiling a list of grants targeted to environmental initiatives. This file will be created and maintained on the Yahoo Group webpage for the St. Louis County Municipal Environment Initiative. By joining

the Yahoo Group, municipalities will have access to documents and links pertaining to environmental initiatives and funding opportunities. As more information is known about the Recovery Act grant money, that information will be placed on the group's webpage. If you wish to join please see the article on page one of the newsletter.

Please visit grants.gov at:

<http://www07.grants.gov/index.jsp>



Ferguson (continued from pg 1)

that involves obtaining a permit from the city. The recycling efforts of the city government are also meant to encourage and promote the same behavior in the citizenry. Ferguson wants to encourage residential, commercial, and special event recycling.

The ordinance also has set a priority for buildings and substantial renovation to incorporate environ-

mental concerns. The aim is to get every building and substantial renovation to be as close to LEED certified as they can. Future projects will be fostered with an environmental conscious.

Ferguson also wants to cultivate and promote sustainable energy and environmental awareness. One area where this is achieved is in the use of

their Jolly Trolley for senior citizens and a lunch time shuttle for businesses in the area.

The City of Ferguson has a partnership with Trailnet. This partnership focuses on a Live Well campaign for citizens. These efforts and collaborations have put the environment in a front row seat for the City of Ferguson.