



Building an Energy Smart Oklahoma

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Communities Join Oklahoma Department of Commerce – Funded Effort to Reduce Residential Energy Costs

Oklahoma City, OK. Six Oklahoma communities (Choctaw, Bartlesville, Moore, Piedmont, Shawnee and Tahlequah) have recently committed to participating in the Bring It Home initiative.

Bring It Home is a statewide effort focused on assisting communities with the adoption of the IECC 2009 (International Energy Conservation Code) on a voluntary basis. This effort complements the State of Oklahoma’s adoption of the IRC 2009 (International Residential Code, with Oklahoma amendments) as the statewide minimum residential code.

This initiative is being funded through an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant, administered by the State of Oklahoma Energy Program and managed by the Department of Commerce. The grant was awarded to the Oklahoma Sustainability Network (OSN), with implementation being led by Phillips Murrah, P.C., C.H. Guernsey & Company, and Guaranteed Watt Savers.

Building to meet the IECC 2009 standards will decrease costs and have a positive long-term impact on the environment and economy. Oklahoma’s workforce also benefits, since IECC 2009 is currently benchmarked as a national minimum for energy efficiency. Bring It Home provides a way for community staff and area builders to receive training and develop skills for building energy efficient residences. Homebuilders have been receptive to the IECC 2009 because it provides a standard for the marketplace.

“Over the past several months, our team members have been actively working with Oklahoma communities that are interested in the voluntary adoption of the IECC 2009. IECC 2009 provides an additional pathway to compliance for IRC 2009, and is already cited as a voluntary standard in the new statewide minimum code,” Kelly Coffman, C.H. Guernsey & Co. said. “Our goal is to have at least ten (10) communities engaged by the end of the year,” she added. “Adoption of

the IECC 2009 standards will benefit homeowners by providing long-term savings on utility bills.”

Project Director Jim Roth stated that Oklahoma is facing an opportunity to update and modernize its current building codes by participating in this initiative. “This initiative provides communities a way to learn about the upcoming code requirements and will be providing training to city officials, builders and developers. Communities that engage with us will be ahead of other communities in the knowledge of the code requirements and how to implement them,” Roth said.

The Bring It Home team has been conducting training sessions in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas. According to team members, the purpose of the training is to provide an introduction to the initiative and an overview of the IECC 2009. For a complete listing of scheduled training sessions and to register, please visit www.bringithomeok.org. Training sessions are free and open to the public. The Construction Industries Board has approved technical sessions for Continuing Education credits.

For further information, contact Kelly Coffman at (405) 416-8324.

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Building a Sustainable Oklahoma

Bring It Home Symposium
Building an Enduring Future - Oklahoma Building Codes in 2012 and Beyond

January 18, 2012
Oklahoma City University

Registration: \$25; Public employees and elected officials can attend at no charge. Register at www.bringithomeok.org.

- 7:30-8:00** Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:00-8:15 *Welcome and Introduction to the Bring It Home Project* - Jim Roth, Bring It Home Project Director
8:15-9:15 *OUBCC Background* - Billy Pope, Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission
9:15-9:30 Break
9:30-10:30 *Benefits of the New Codes* - Paul Karrer and Matt Kerns, Building Code Assistance Project
10:30-11:30 *Panel Discussion Practical Guidance for Adoption* - Sarah Spencer-Workman, Sedgwick Consultants and three Community Panelists
11:30-1:00 Lunch - Keynote Speaker Deputy Secretary of Energy Jay Albert
1:00-3:00 *IRC 2009 w/OK Amendments* - Kelly Parker, Guaranteed Watt Saver (GWS)
3:00-3:15 Break
3:15-5:00 *IECC 2009 Training* - Kelly Parker, Guaranteed Watt Saver (GWS)

Location:

The Symposium is being held at Oklahoma City University, Meinders School of Business, in the Kerr-McGee Auditorium, located at NW 27th St. and McKinley Avenue in Oklahoma City.

Parking is free; please use the south parking lot of the Meinders School of Business.

Mileage reimbursement is available for public entities. Funds are limited – see website for more information.

Sponsors:
Oklahoma City University Petree College of Arts and Sciences
Oklahoma Sustainability Network

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