



Energy Programs

A key element in rural economic development strategy is energy. Money spent on fuel and utility bills to stay warm and operate lights and electrical appliances represents one of the largest expenditures of cash in rural

communities. Up to 40% of a rural family's cash income is spent on energy purchases, and most of this cash goes right out of the community. Energy conservation presents the most practical and cost-effective long-term

solution to this problem. Weatherization of an existing home can cut the expenditure of energy by up to 25%. The use and proper maintenance of high efficiency stoves can result in 50% savings in fuel costs. Purchasing a community's fuel needs cooperatively in bulk quantities can save the community around 20% in fuel costs. Every dollar saved through energy conservation means one more dollar that can remain in the community to help strengthen the local economy and create local jobs.



The Weatherization Section: Toy Owen, Charlotte Sponael, Rosie Ricketts-Riener, Jan Brewer, John Munson

Energy Conservation Section

The Energy Conservation Section offers several programs in support of local energy conservation efforts. The Institutional Building Conservation Program provides financing for energy conservation improvements in institutional facilities such as hospitals and schools. This section also provides a wide range of technical assistance and educational opportunities to individuals and local governments.



The Energy Conservation Section: Frank Delia, Bob Shipley, Steve Baden, Norman Blair, Stuart Brooks

Weatherization Section

The Weatherization Program enables low-income families to obtain energy conservation improvements for their residences, thus reducing the cost of energy for those least able to afford it. This program is contracted to local governments, nonprofits and businesses to implement at the local level. The contractor ensures the participant's eligibility, completes an assessment of the need for energy conservation improvements, orders and installs conservation materials, and educates participants in energy conservation practices. The Weatherization Program stimulates the building trade and suppliers and the use of local labor is encouraged, which provides the additional benefit of employment within the community.