

Nebraska

# Energy

Q U A R T E R L Y

*Natural Gas, Ethanol and now BioDiesel...*

## Lincoln — Nebraska's Alternate Fuel Capitol?

First it was natural gas, then ethanol, now something called BioDiesel. Just what will Lincoln's buses and handi-vans be fueling up with next?

It was just over two years ago that Lincoln's transit system, StarTran, had its first experience with alternate fuels when a free natural gas-powered handi-van motored into town courtesy of a federal grant to the state, matching funds from the Energy Office and in-kind contributions from several natural gas utilities. Lincoln's dual-fueled van was one of 39 natural gas/gasoline and propane/gasoline-powered buses and vans delivered to transit systems across the state.

### Star Search

At about the same time, Lincoln city officials responded to an Energy Office search for Nebraska towns interested in applying for federal mass transit grants for buses operating on alternate fuels. As a result, in June 1992, the city received up to \$1.3 million for four 95 percent ethanol-powered buses. The Energy Office has raised nearly \$400,000 in matching funds needed by the city as a condition of the grant. Those ethanol buses rolled onto Lincoln's streets last December.

Later in 1992, city transit officials got more good news. The federal government was giving the city a grant to convert seven handi-vans to operate on dual fuels — natural gas and gasoline — and establish a fueling station. The natural gas utility serving the city provided the match required by the federal grant.

### Does Gas Lead to Beans?

In February this year, Lincoln fueled up two buses with yet another alternate fuel — a mixture of 75 percent diesel and 25 percent soy oil. It's known as SoyDiesel or BioDiesel and it's a new addition to the alternate fuel scene. The buses are expected to operate on the fuel for twelve months.

The BioDiesel fuel test is a joint project of the National SoyDiesel Development Board and the Nebraska Soybean Board. The national organization will sell the

city BioDiesel for the cost of regular diesel. The state board paid for the installation of special storage tanks for the fuel.

Jim Weyer, managing director of the state Soybean Board, said, "BioDiesel not only reduces pollution, but has one unique feature — the exhaust smells like french fries."

### The Dirty Diesel

According to local transit officials, StarTran's interest in alternate fuels is the result of an emphasis on utilization of renewable fuel sources and an attempt to look toward future environmental standards. "The diesel is still the most common engine in transit fleets. However, other types of engines, powered by various alternate fuels, will be the future engines in transit fleets. StarTran is proud to be in the forefront of this new technology," said Larry Worth, Assistant Director of the Lincoln Transportation Department.

For more information about these projects or BioDiesel fuel, contact **Larry Worth**, StarTran, 710 J Street, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402)441-8600, **Jim Weyer**, Nebraska Soybean Board, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509, (800)852-2326 or the **National SoyDiesel Development Board**, P.O. Box 104898, 1907 Williams Street, Jefferson City, MO 65110-4898, phone (800)841-5849.

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# The Energy Office Is Financing Improvements Across Nebraska

Every town in Nebraska has a list of local projects townsfolk would like to see done. The projects vary from finding a doctor to keeping an elementary school open to making long-overdue maintenance improvements in government buildings and other ideas. But many times, projects die because of lack of money.

Surprisingly, the Energy Office has been one of the more prolific financiers of local projects among state government agencies.

Since 1981, the three largest loan and grant programs operated by the agency — School District Energy Efficiency Program, Institutional Conservation and Dollar and Energy Saving Loan programs — have provided \$55.4 million for local energy saving improvements and studies. Millions of additional dollars have financed other energy saving improvements over the years.

## \$5 Million A Year

Loans constitute the vast majority of the financing since less than \$500,000 is used annually for grants. In the most recent 12

month period, the Energy Office invested approximately \$4.6 million in loans to individuals, businesses, local governments, schools and others.

Of the \$5.1 million available annually, about \$250,000 — less than five percent — comes from new federal tax dollars. All the loans and some of the grants come from repayments on earlier loans plus accrued interest and a portion of the state's oil and natural gas severance taxes paid before 1991.

Listed on pages 2, 3 and 4 are typical or actual projects and how they could be financed by the Energy Office. Unlike other government programs, projects are not in competition with one another for limited funding as is the case with Community Development Block Grants. An additional distinction between Energy Office loans and other programs is that financing requests are received and approved every day — there are no deadlines to meet.

Grants are available, but very limited in both dollars and who may receive them. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to schools, universities, colleges and hospitals only. ■

## Funding Options for Projects of All Types

While the Energy Office is not able to finance every type of local project, the agency will consider almost any type of building or system improvement which saves energy. Several new types of projects have also become eligible for financing — telecommunications systems and alternate fuel vehicles and filling stations. New construction is not eligible for financing at this time.

### Building Improvements Abound

City and county governments, fire districts, fair boards, public power districts and others may utilize loans to finance a variety of building improvements. The maximum amount of the loan is \$175,000 at five percent interest. Loan repayments are negotiable and can last up to 15 years.

Schools have access to alternate and cheaper financing through the School District Energy Efficiency Program. However, some schools may finance a project utilizing both zero and five percent interest loans. Schools, colleges, universities and

hospitals can also apply for federal matching grants under the Institutional Conservation Program.

Last year, the legislature clarified ambiguous laws regarding borrowing by city and county governments. Barriers to public borrowing from Energy Office programs have been removed.

Below is a list of improvements already partly or entirely financed by the Energy Office.

**Albion Public Schools** installed new boilers, pumps, pipes, fan coils and system controls in the school.....\$140,591

**Avoca Fire Fighters** replaced double-paned windows in fire hall.....\$2,940

**Bartley village board** installed new insulated garage doors in fire barn and the community building.....\$2,279

**Broken Bow city government** replaced a swimming pool heater and lights throughout the town.....\$28,097

**Bruning village board** repaired a roof, added insulation and

replaced doors in the community building.....\$4,290

**Butte Nursing Home** replaced two washing machines.....\$4,856

**Chadron Public Schools** replaced the lights on the football field.....\$35,922

**Crete Municipal Hospital** replaced heating system.....\$50,372

**Elmwood/Murdock Public Schools** replaced windows, doors and lights in the school.....\$18,748

**Emerson Rural Fire District** replaced overhead doors with insulated ones.....\$2,054

**Geneva city government** replaced windows, a door and added insulation, furnaces and an air conditioner to the city hall.....\$13,135

**Hebron's Blue Valley Lutheran Nursing Home** repaired the roof and added insulation...\$30,600

**Hemingford Public School** replaced a boiler system.....\$30,064

**Herman village board** replaced furnaces and air conditioners in the Legion hall/city auditorium.....\$7,670

**Keya Paha County High School** replaced the lights on the football field.....\$20,800

**Lyon's Logan Valley Manor** added reflective film to windows and added air conditioning systems.....\$40,403

**McCook Public Power District** replaced a boiler system and water heaters in their headquarters.....\$59,479

**Mitchell city government** replaced windows and heating system and added storm windows in the city offices.....\$15,433

**North Bend village board** replaced the heating system in the city auditorium.....\$12,327

**North Bend Elementary School** replaced the boiler system.....\$129,743

**Perkins County Fair Board** added insulation to walls and attic and replaced heating system in a fair building.....\$22,411

**Republican City Dinner Theatre** added an air conditioning system.....\$34,000

See Financing on Page 4

## Recent Loans and Grants to Schools Across the State

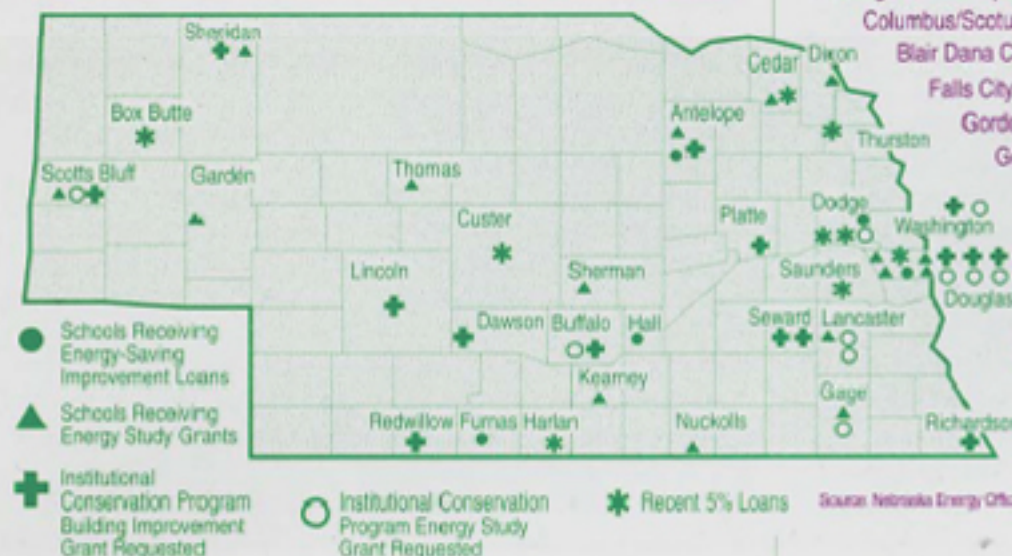
Energy Studies	Grant Amount
Beatrice (6 buildings)	\$15,000
Gordon	\$2,500
Lisco	\$2,500
Loup	\$5,000
Malcolm	\$2,500
Minden	\$2,500
Orchard	\$2,500
Omaha/Dundee	\$2,500
Papillion/LaVista	\$2,500
Ponca	\$2,500
Randolph (3 buildings)	\$7,500
Scottsbluff (4 buildings)	\$10,000
Superior (3 buildings)	\$7,500
Theftord (2 buildings)	\$5,000
Valley	\$2,500
Yutan	\$2,500

Building Improvements	Loan Amount
Arapahoe	\$27,201
Clearwater	\$15,512
Millard	\$217,091
Nickerson	\$11,487
Wood River	\$54,600

## Recent Institutional Conservation Program Grant Requests from Schools and Hospitals

(Since requests exceed funds available, not all requests will be funded.)

Building Improvements	Requested Amount
Bennington Schools	\$77,463
Clearwater Schools	\$17,167
College of St. Mary Omaha	\$94,717
Columbus/Scotts Schools	\$19,706
Blair Dana College	\$122,863
Falls City Sacred Heart School	\$9,725
Gordon Elementary	\$35,400
Gothenburg Memorial Hospital	\$28,900
Kearney Schools	\$31,150
McCook Community College	\$12,150
Mid-Plains Community College	
North Platte	\$152,432
Minatare Schools	\$2,310
Omaha Holy Ghost Elementary	\$19,222
Omaha Roncalli School	\$11,130
Seward Memorial Hospital	\$56,500
Southeast Community College Milford	\$238,263
University of Nebraska at Omaha	\$253,020



## Recent 5% Loans to Communities

Location and Type of Improvements	Loan Amount
Broken Bow, pool heater and street lighting	\$28,097
Emerson, insulated doors for fire station	\$2,054
Hemingford, new boiler for school	\$30,064
North Bend, heating system for city auditorium	\$12,327
Republican City, air conditioner for dinner theater	\$34,000
Wahoo, city hall improvements	\$135,208
Waterloo, new boiler for school	\$97,063
Wynot, insulation and boiler for elementary school	\$53,664

Energy Studies	Requested Amount
Beatrice Community Hospital	\$10,500
Omaha College of St. Mary	\$2,950
Blair Dana College	\$7,000
Omaha Immanuel Medical Center	\$36,000
Lincoln St. John's Elementary	\$2,000
Fremont Midland Lutheran College	\$42,112
Omaha Holy Name School	\$2,950
University of Nebraska at Kearney	\$62,104
University of Nebraska at Lincoln	\$9,100
University of Nebraska at Scottsbluff	\$9,972

FINANCING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

**Wahoo** city government replaced windows and the heating system and added insulation to the city hall ..... \$135,208

**Waterloo** Public Schools replaced the boiler system ..... \$97,063

**Wynot** Public Schools added insulation and replaced the boiler system in the elementary school ..... \$53,664

### System Improvement Loans, Too

Loans are also available at five percent for improving energy-using systems in agricultural, small business and manufacturing processes. Over the past three years, more than \$4.5 million in loans have financed energy saving improvements such as corn and wood-fueled stoves, grain dryers, low-pressure pivot irrigation systems, pump and motor replacements, energy saving tractors, cultivators and planters as well as heat recovery systems in commercial operations.

System improvement loans could be promoted by town leaders as a way of providing assistance to existing businesses up and down Main Street. These improvements help businesses reduce their energy expenses and, in turn, overhead.

### Dollars for Telecommunications Systems

The frequently-mentioned Information Superhighway has been

under construction in Nebraska for years. In many ways, communities across the state have more ways to access information than much larger cities in other parts of the country.

A good overview of the communities' telecommunications capabilities is the videotape, *Telecommunications Works for Nebraskans*, available from the **Information Desk** at the Nebraska Library Commission (402)471-4024 or (800)307-2665 or **Chris Hoy**, Department of Economic Development (402)471-3805.

If your town wants to build or add to its local telecommunications information system, there are several ways to finance the project, including one from the federal government.

**Loans** from the Energy Office are available at either zero or five percent interest for the construction and installation of telecommunications systems. Zero-interest loans are only available to public schools, but the loan amount is not limited. The five percent loans to city and county governments are limited to a maximum of \$150,000.

**Grants** from the federal government's National Telecommunications and Information Administration are available to local schools and governments, libraries, universities, nonprofits and

hospitals. Priority will be given to facilities located in rural areas and inner cities from the \$26 million available. Project applications must be received by May 12, 1994. Grant winners will be notified in October. No decisions have been made on the maximum size of a grant or the total number awarded across the country. In nearly all cases, grants will not exceed one-half the cost of the project. It is anticipated that over half the funds will be given to construct projects. For more information on the federal grants, contact **Rod Armstrong**, State Information Technology Coordinator at (402) 471-3138.

### Even Car, Truck and Bus Financing

City and county governments, utilities and schools may want to consider the tax and dollar savings available by converting or purchasing alternate fuel vehicles. The Energy Office is now offering zero and five percent interest loans for vehicle acquisition and conversion of existing vehicles to alternate fuels as well as installation of fueling facilities. Zero interest loans are available to public schools only.

At this time, Fremont and Lincoln city governments appear to be taking the lead in use of alternate fuels. While Fremont has opted for just one fuel type, natural gas, Lincoln is taking a multiple fuel approach.

Nebraska, unlike the rest of the nation, will be mostly exempt from federal laws requiring government and private businesses to have vehicles which operate on alternate fuels. The state's clean air and low population density are the reasons Nebraskans will not be required to use alternate fuels. Only utilities and some centralized fleets, primarily in Omaha, will be required to own and operate vehicles which run on alternate fuels.

To obtain these low interest loans the vehicles must operate on compressed natural gas, electricity, ethanol, liquefied natural gas, methanol or propane. Dual fuel vehicles -- at least one of the two fuels must be an alternate fuel -- may be financed with these loans in certain cases.

### Who To Contact

For more information on financing options available from the Energy Office, contact any of the following people:

- Zero percent loans — **Lynn Chamberlin**
- Five percent loans — **Joel Phipps** or **Jody Johns**
- Grants (schools and hospitals only) — **Jeff Graef** or **Leonard Pewthers**

If you want to explore other loan options in your town, contact **John Osterman** in the Energy Office. ■

BIODIESEL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## BioDiesel/SoyDiesel — Just the Facts

**D**uring processing, soybeans are separated into oil and protein. BioDiesel is made from the oil portion of processed soybeans and blended with petroleum-based diesel fuel. The most common fuel mixture and contains between 20-30 percent soy oil. However, almost any percentage of

fuel mixture will work.

In performance comparisons with petroleum-based diesel, BioDiesel delivers the same torque, horsepower and miles per gallon

as regular diesel. Unlike other alternate fuels, BioDiesel does not require special engines or other modifications.

Pollutants such as carbon monoxide, black smoke and particulates and sulfur dioxide are reduced when

BioDiesel is substituted for regular diesel.

Presently, BioDiesel is only available from a Kansas City supplier at \$2.50 per gallon. When blended with #2 (low sulfur) diesel fuel, the BioDiesel averages \$1.30 per gallon. ■



*A \$25,000 Loan + \$50,000 From Local Lenders...*

## Schuyler's Making the Most of its Keno Dollars

In February, Governor Ben Nelson singled out Schuyler officials for their unique approach toward spending keno proceeds. The community is using the money to leverage state and private funds to make low-interest loans for energy-saving improvements available to residents through the Schuyler Energy Commission.

Schuyler has been able to quadruple its available resources through this innovative approach," Nelson said. "Instead of just spending \$25,000 in keno revenues, Schuyler is borrowing \$25,000 from the Nebraska Energy Office loan fund and teaming it with \$50,000 from two local banks."

Nelson said the \$1 million Nebraska Energy Office loan fund was created last February using oil overcharge dollars. Nelson challenged the state's towns and businesses to match these funds dollar-for-dollar to leverage loans from local lenders for energy saving improvements in buildings and systems.

"I hope more municipalities and civic groups will use this fund to help their residents reduce their energy bills," Nelson said.

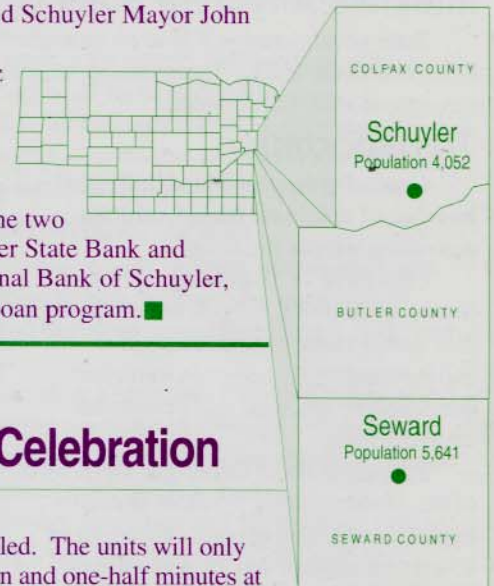
### A Model to Copy

Bob Harris, Director of the Energy Office, said Schuyler has a

history as a model of energy conservation in the state. Harris said the city has been operating an energy-saving low-interest loan program since 1988 thanks to assistance from local lenders and the Energy Office.

The city offered 3.6 percent loans to homeowners and businesses for energy-saving improvements," Harris said. "To date, 90 loans totaling \$350,000 have been made to 79 homeowners and 11 businesses. Depending on the type of improvements made, the annual savings total \$84 to \$384."

Nelson applauded Schuyler Mayor John Theisen and Keith Moore, George Kretz and Patricia Hladky of the Schuyler Energy Commission for their leadership. He also recognized the two local lenders, Schuyler State Bank and Trust and First National Bank of Schuyler, for their roles in the loan program. ■



### Cutting Electricity Use...

## Seward's Year-Round Savings Celebration

Seward, home of the state's largest Fourth of July celebration, now has another reason to celebrate — saving residents money on their electric bills.

In communities owning their electric system like Seward, demand side management means money in ratepayer's pockets. Demand side management is nothing more complicated than using energy as efficiently as possible or not using electricity during certain times. Begun in 1982, the town's effort has resulted in six straight years of no increase in rates.

The town's first attempts to limit electricity use during certain times in the summer was voluntary. Initially, larger users — industries and businesses — were asked to curtail power use for a few minutes an hour. If demand for electricity did not slacken sufficiently, residents were asked to join in. It's a system which worked for nearly ten years.

### New Strategies For The 90s

But times and conditions change. By early 1992, voluntary efforts were insufficient to meet Seward's needs.

A simpler but more effective direct method of curtailing power use was begun. The city asked for volunteers to have control box mounted on air conditioners, allowing the city to automatically shut off the unit's air compressor for a few minutes out of an hour. Almost 350 townspeople responded to the local utility's request.

"Most customers in the program will not realize their air condi-

tioner is being controlled. The units will only be shut down for seven and one-half minutes at a time. I would estimate the indoor temperature would only change a few degrees when the controls are activated," said Dan Berlowitz, Seward's city administrator.

Once the control system is installed in air conditioners, the boxes are radio-activated by computer, when needed. Only the air conditioner's compressor is shut off, not the fan. After several minutes, the air conditioners in one area of town are restarted while others across town are shut down. Finally, when the town's demand for electricity declines sufficiently, the air conditioners are returned to normal operation.

For years, rural electricians in the state have operated similar radio-activated control systems for shutting off irrigation systems during periods of high energy use.

### Money-Generating Boxes

About 100 air conditioners are added to the system every year. Before this June, all 350 control boxes should be in place and operating. Over the next three years, Seward hopes to nearly triple the number of air conditioners involved in the effort.

To date, the control boxes have cost the local utility \$20,000, but saved the town's ratepayers \$28,700 even though the entire system has not been operational. When all 900 boxes are operational, Seward expects to save \$73,800 annually. ■

# An Energy Action Plan for Nebraska

The Energy Office completed a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility, cost, effectiveness and potential savings of each of the recommendations in the *Nebraska Energy Policy Plan: Recommendations to the Governor* released in January 1992 by the 52-member Energy Policy Council. By the end of that year, Governor Nelson announced the first energy policy for the state — *An Energy Action Plan for Nebraska*. The summary on this page and page 7, reports on the first year's progress under the action plan. For a full copy of the report, contact **Jerry Loos** in the Energy Office.

## Initiative Affecting State Government

State government will lead by example to ensure the efficient, economic and environmentally responsible use of energy throughout state government.

### Transportation

**Goal:** Increase substantially the number of alternate fueled vehicles operating within the state.

**Objective 1:** Beginning in 1993 (model year 1994), ten percent of the light duty motor vehicles (excluding law enforcement and emergency vehicles) purchased by the state will operate on alternate fuels.

**Progress:** As of December 1993, 24 of the Transportation Services Bureau's light-duty vehicles operate on a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. The other 1,033 light-duty vehicles operate on a blend of 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline. Additional purchases of ethanol-powered vehicles are also planned.

**Objective 2:** Over the next two years, state government will make provision where necessary for the fueling of alternate fueled vehicles in its fleet.

**Progress:** Meetings were held with state agencies to address the feasibility of providing fueling stations to accommodate alternate fueled vehicles. Ethanol refueling tanks were installed at state facilities in Lincoln, Hastings and Grand Island.

**Objective 3:** Develop a comprehensive state alternate fuel and vehicle incentives plan designed to accelerate the introduction and use of such fuels and vehicles.

**Progress:** Federal regulations establishing guidelines for state development of comprehensive alternate fuel and vehicle incentive plans have not yet been issued. Nebraska's plan will be developed to comply with those regulations.

**Goal: Efficient use of transportation.**

**Objective 4:** The rideshare roster developed by the Energy Office for use by state employees commuting from Omaha to Lincoln will be expanded to cover employees commuting to

Lincoln from other locations.

**Progress:** The rideshare rosters were expanded to include all communities surrounding Lincoln. The rosters are updated quarterly.

**Objective 5:** Increase state agency use of telecommunications in educational and conferencing activities to substitute for travel.

**Progress:** During 1993, there were 526 teleconferences involving 5,020 participants according to state government records. Eighty percent of the conferences were scheduled by state agencies. The Energy Office held its first teleconference meetings in 1993.

### State Buildings

**Goal:** State government will achieve maximum efficiency of energy use in all its existing buildings.

**Objective 6:** Require agencies responsible for state-owned buildings to adopt a comprehensive energy efficiency program.

**Progress:** The State Building Revolving Loan Fund was established to provide no cost financing of energy conservation improvements in state-owned and state-leased buildings. Nebraska also participated in the Green Lights Program and surveyed state buildings identifying cost-saving lighting improvements.

### Landscaping

**Goal:** Reduce energy use in state-owned buildings, the maintenance cost of planted areas surrounding them and the maintenance cost of

highway rights-of-way through the use of energy efficient, low maintenance plantings and xeriscaping techniques.

**Objective 7:** Over the next ten years, the land areas surrounding state-owned buildings will be converted to low maintenance plants and grasses in the course of regular maintenance and replacement.

**Progress:** A landscaping seminar was held for 60 representatives of agencies responsible for state-owned buildings and grounds.

**Objective 8:** Over the next ten years, as part of the regular maintenance and replacement program, road rights-of-way will continue to be maintained in low maintenance plants. As rights-of-way are reseeded, low maintenance plants requiring little mowing will be used.

**Progress:** Evaluation of rights of way plantings is an ongoing process conducted by the Department of Roads.



## Interagency Coordination

**Goal:** Foster and promote interagency cooperation and coordination to increase state government efficiency and to achieve energy policy goals and objectives.

**Objective 9:** Identify state agencies whose activities are naturally related to energy and encourage them to integrate energy issues into their programs.

**Progress:** The Energy Office worked with over twenty state agencies, boards or commissions on issues related to energy.

## Initiative Affecting Private Businesses and Local Governments

State government will facilitate increases in energy efficiency in the private and local government sectors.

### Transportation

**Goal:** Provide incentives for the purchase and conversion of vehicles to operate on alternate fuels.

**Objective 10:** State government will facilitate and/or provide incentives for local governments for the acquisition, installation or conversion of vehicles to operate on alternate fuels.

**Progress:** The Legislature approved the use of School Weatherization funds for conversion of school vehicles to operate on alternate fuels and for the installation of refueling sites. The loans will be available in 1994.

**Objective 11:** Provide low cost financing for the conversion of public and private fleet vehicles to operate on alternate fuels and fueling facilities.

**Progress:** The Alternate Fuels Incentive Fund was established with \$250,000 of oil overcharge funds.

**Objective 12:** Establish an Alternate Fuels Advisory Committee to develop strategies which assist Nebraskans to decrease their use of petroleum products, thereby enhancing national security and reducing the state's reliance on imported petroleum.

**Progress:** The advisory committee was created in April 1993 and is developing a directory and handbook for use by the public.

**Objective 13:** Increase private sector and local government participation in telecommunications throughout the state.

**Progress:** A Telecommunications Incentive Fund to finance infrastructure expansion was capitalized with \$500,000 in oil overcharge funds.

### Buildings

**Goal:** Increase energy efficiency of new construction.

**Objective 14:** Formulate a state-developed energy building code for new and retrofit construction which is affordable, cost-effective, user-friendly and enforceable.

**Progress:** The Energy Office will be providing model energy code training to the state's homebuilders. Also, the legislature will be studying modification of the present state energy code.

**Objective 15:** Through legislation, adopt the state-developed energy building code, establish an enforcement mechanism and establish a periodic update system.

**Progress:** Legislation based on the *Energy Policy Act* of 1992 and the results of a 1994 legislative study may be introduced during the 1995 legislative session.

**Goal:** Increase efficiency of existing buildings.

**Objective 16:** Remove statutory language which impedes participation by public entities in state operated energy saving loan programs.

**Progress:** In 1993, the Legislature gave local governments express authority to participate in state sponsored energy loan programs.

**Objective 17:** Increase the energy efficiency of public buildings owned and operated by local governments.

**Progress:** The Energy Office formulated a community energy strategy to provide information, education and training opportunities through the Nebraska Development Network.

### Education and Information

**Goal:** To provide timely and reliable information and education opportunities to help Nebraskans learn about energy and make good decisions regarding energy costs and use.

**Objective 18:** Establish a Nebraska Energy Education and Information Center within the Nebraska Energy Office as a means to centralize, organize and disseminate energy education and information resources to the general public.

**Progress:** The Energy Education and Information Center was established. Energy will also be a part of the statewide reform effort for math and science education.

### Economic Development

**Goal:** Utilize energy efficiency strategies to strengthen Nebraska's economy and contribute to the state's ability to compete in world markets.

**Objective 19:** Use the Dollar and Energy Saving Loan Program as an effective energy efficiency strategy and economic development tool.

**Progress:** Energy saving improvement loans made for energy efficiency improvements during calendar year 1993 totaled \$4.9 million. The loan program has leveraged private funds and made \$37.4 million in loans since 1990, with an investment of \$14.75 million of oil overcharge funds.

**Objective 20:** Utilize the Nebraska Development Network to promote energy efficiency as an economic development tool.

**Progress:** The Energy Office developed a strategy for providing information, education and training opportunities through the Nebraska Development Network. Lines of communication with the national laboratories are being developed to connect Nebraska and individuals with the latest technologies.

## Information Services

The **Alternative Fuels Hotline** provides general and specific information on alternate vehicular fuels including fuel performance and availability. Call between 9am-5pm CT, Monday-Friday. **(800) 423-1363**

Alternative Fuels Hotline  
P.O. Box 12316  
Arlington, VA 22209

The **Energy Efficiency Renewable Energy Clearinghouse** provides fact sheets, brochures, videos and publications on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Call between 7am-4pm CT, Monday-Friday. **(800) 523-2929**

Energy Efficiency Renewable Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3048  
Merrifield, VA 22116

Two free fact sheets are available from the Service — **Efficient Air Conditioning (FS206)** and **Fans and Ventilation (FS228)**. Please refer to the numbers in parentheses when ordering a publication.

The **Motor Challenge Information Clearinghouse** provides research, software, technical assistance and education materials on efficiency in motor systems. Call between 8am-7pm CT, Monday-Friday. **(800) 862-2086**

Motor Challenge Information Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 43171  
Olympia, WA 98504-3171

The **National Energy Information Center** provides data and projections on energy production, consumption, prices and supplies. Call between 7am-4pm CT, Monday-Friday. **(202) 586-8800**

National Energy Information Center  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Forrestal Bldg., EI-22, Room 1F048  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

The **National Materials Exchange Network** provides free advice via computer modem on recycling and reducing disposal costs. Call 24 hours per day. Modem access **(800) 858-6625** General assistance **(509) 325-0507**

The **National Renewable Energy Laboratory/Technical Inquiry Service** offers free technical information on solar and other renewable technologies for scientific and industrial professionals. Call between 9am-6pm CT, Monday-Friday. **(703) 487-4650**  
Technical Inquiry Service  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
1617 Cole Boulevard  
Golden, CO 80401

## Information Services by Modem

The **Comprehensive Oil & Gas Information Source** provides energy data to subscribers on Internet. For more information, call between 7am-4pm CT, Monday-Friday. **(202) 586-8800**

The **Electric Ideas Clearinghouse** offers a free source of commercial and industrial energy information and downloadable software on electronic bulletin board. To access call **(800) 797-7584**. ■

## Project Loans to Date: 6,534 for \$38.2 million

### Frequently Asked Questions...

## 5% Dollar and Energy Saving Loans

The *Nebraska Energy Quarterly* features questions asked about 5% Dollar and Energy Saving Loans. Loan forms may be obtained from participating lenders or the Energy Office.

***A borrower who is making the energy saving improvements himself informed the lender his work will not be completed by the date stated in the loan documents. What needs to be done by the borrower and the lender?***

The borrower has to select a new, hopefully more accurate, deadline when the work will be completed. The borrower then informs the lender of the new date. Then, the lender requests, in writing, a time extension from the

Energy Office. After review, the Energy Office will inform the lender of acceptance of the time extension in writing.

***Many government programs have income restrictions limiting who may use the services. Is this also true about Dollar and Energy Saving Loans?***

No. Dollar and Energy Saving Loans are available to any Nebraska resident wanting to make an improvement in a home, apartment, business, farm or ranch. Schools, city and county governments, rural

nursing homes and small non-profits or for-profit corporations may also apply for the five percent loans.

All potential borrowers must meet the credit require-


ments of their lender and make only eligible, energy saving improvements. Also, the properties being improved must be located within the state. ■

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