

Energy and Environment Session Takeaways

Moderator: Ed Boito, PennFuture

Panelists: John Hanger, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; E. Craig Heim, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; Russell McIntosh, Vice President, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

ARRA Successes

- Since April 2009, Pennsylvania has spent \$1.5 billion in state and federal funds on water and sewer infrastructure, four times the normal rate of \$300 to 350 million. There is an enormous amount of new construction going in this area.
- Pennsylvania has received \$1 billion for alternative energy, matched by 600 million in Act 1 money.
- Pennsylvania is also getting world class assets from our investments: Solar farms that operate for 20 years; water and sewer infrastructure that has a life expectancy of 40 years.
- Pennsylvania received \$252 million to weatherize 30,000 homes.
- Six Training centers have been opened in Pennsylvania to address the need for weatherization professionals

ARRA Challenges

- Application process can be time consuming and confusing, as each different department can have a different application process or forms.
- The current funding is all public sector financing.

Recommendations

- Streamline and standardize the application process between the various state agencies.
- More focus and funding for Public/Private partnerships. Neither the government, nor the private sector can get the economy moving alone.
- New Innovative ideas for financing smaller projects to get the money flowing faster.
- Raise the AEP standards higher to get more private money flowing into the state.