

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Mr. Noel Vargas
Urban Initiative Manager
Office of Science, Ecosystems and Communities
US EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard B-19J
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

November 30, 2006
Via E-Mail

Dear Mr. Vargas:

Re: 2003-2004 State Innovations Grant Program

Attached is the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's State Innovations Grant Program progress report as stipulated in our agreement. This quarterly progress report contains a summary of activities for the seventh quarter of the three-year grant (seventh quarterly report).

If you have further questions about the information provided, please contact me at (317) 233-5554.

Sincerely,

Stacey Martindale
CLEAN Program Manager
Office of Pollution Prevention & Technical Assistance

Attachment: Grant Track form

CC: Marilou Martin
Michael Mendyk
Dan Murray
Karen T. Peterson
Britt Long

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Grant Track System

General Information

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Grant Name | State Innovation Grant – CLEAN Community Challenge |
| Cooperative Agreement No. | PI96568001-0 |
| Year Awarded | 2005 |
| Number of Amendments | 0 |
| Grant Type | 66.611 Environmental Policy and Innovation Grants |
| Region | 5 |

Summary Description

To develop and implement a voluntary program designed to encourage positive environmental actions that potentially will include reduced air, land, and water emissions and discharges by Indiana municipalities and businesses. The goal of this program is to improve Indiana’s environment community by community. This program will create new partnerships between the State, local government, and business and will encourage communities through a Comprehensive Local Environment Action Network (CLEAN) to set and achieve their environmental goals.

Under this Cooperative Agreement, IDEM will identify and work with three pilot communities. Each of the three pilot communities will develop a quality of life plan tailored to their specific needs and environmental conditions. Communities will use an EMS methodology to develop the quality of life plans. IDEM will publicly recognize those municipalities that successfully implement an EMS. In addition, IDEM will track the environmental benefits achieved by participating municipalities.

Contact Information

State Project Contact

EPA Project Officer

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------|---|
| Name | Stacey Martindale | Name | Noel Vargas |
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EPA Grant Specialist

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| EPA Grant Specialist Name | Karen Sykes |
| EPA Grant Specialist Phone | (312) 886-7571 |

Project Status Information

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Date Awarded | January 31, 2005 |
| Original Planned Completion Date | December 31, 2007 |
| Scheduled Planned Completion Date | December 31, 2007 |
| Project Actual Completion Date | To be determined |
| Last Progress Report Received on | August 29, 2006 |
| Progress Report through | October 31, 2006 |
| Project Status | Ongoing |

Project Funding

Financial information removed by EPA as confidential business information.

Target Dates and Milestones

The Indiana CLEAN Community Challenge program continues to make progress and achieve the milestones identified in the 2003-2004 State Innovations Grant Program project narrative.

Spring 2005 – Fall 2007:

Milestone: *Designate and recognize first round of Indiana CLEAN Communities; finalize 3 pilot quality of life plans; determine measurable outcomes to EPA; adjust QAPP to reflect measurable outcomes; begin to determine baseline; submit quarterly and annual reports to EPA.*

Status: ON-GOING – items accomplished this quarter are described below

During this quarter, two designated Indiana CLEAN Community pilots began implementation of their Quality of Life Plans. The third pilot is still interested in receiving Indiana CLEAN Community designation, but does not have the manpower or commitment from the mayor to invest in a Quality of Life Plan.

IDEM and CMTI provided two CLEAN Community pilots with assistance in evaluating and measuring progress toward their Quality of Life Plan goals. Communication and assistance with Quality of Life Plan implementation will continue with these two communities.

IDEM received a Quality of Life Plan update from one of the pilot CLEAN Communities. The update is voluntary as members are only required to submit the CLEAN Community Challenge Annual Report to IDEM. The following updates reflect the progress of the pilot community’s objectives in their Quality of Life Plan:

- Town residents recycled more than 16 tons of solid waste in August 2006, which resulted in more than 23% of the town’s total municipal solid waste (68.2 tons) being recycled. The average recycling rate for the unincorporated county is approximately 6%.

- Herbicide application to remove invasive species in Pollywog Pond was completed for the season.
- Two CLEAN stakeholders provided recycling training to Town Hall staff on September 26, 2006. Additionally, the town staff provided input on the Standard Operating Procedure for municipal building recycling as needed to fully implement the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy.
- The town compost site has been in operation for one year and the town is now advertising the availability of free compost to residents.

In addition to making progress on the objectives within the town's Quality of Life Plan, the town:

- Formed a committee to investigate the potential for acquiring a Reverse 911 system to contact residents during a disaster (i.e., train wreck) or water outages to provide instructions. The notification system will bolster the Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure.
- Applied for Lake Michigan Coastal Grant funding to restore Long Lake Marsh, which will include a stormwater management component.

IDEM received a draft application from a non-pilot community during winter 2005. IDEM provided this community with comments and suggestions for improving their Quality of Life Plan and then received their final application. The final application was still not sufficient so IDEM coordinated meetings and discussions with this community to complete the application and Quality of Life Plan to meet CLEAN requirements. An additional version addressing IDEM's comments was received and is currently being reviewed for completeness.

Two non-pilot communities are nearing completion of their Quality of Life Plans. IDEM anticipates recognizing these communities as Indiana CLEAN Communities in the upcoming months. One of the communities has submitted a draft application for comment.

Personnel from the U.S. EPA Region 5 have expressed interest in providing one day each week of technical assistance for approximately one year to help communities implement a Quality of Life Plan. During this quarter, IDEM and EPA drafted a Memorandum of Agreement to formalize the assistance to be provided. Additionally, personnel from the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission are interested in working with EPA personnel, CMTI, and IDEM to help promote the CLEAN Community Challenge program and coordinate the implementation process.

The CLEAN program manager continues to provide presentations and meet with communities interested in learning more about CLEAN. During the seventh quarter, two phone calls and e-mails were taken from newly interested parties, and one presentation and one workshop were conducted.

IDEM submitted its sixth quarterly report to EPA in August 2006.

Winter 2005

Milestone: *Designate and recognize 3 pilot communities; begin to create a quality of life plan for each pilot; provide onsite assessment of each pilot; receive non-pilot community applications; submit quarterly report to EPA*

Status: COMPLETE – see previous quarterly reports for details

Fall 2004

Milestone: *Promote program; solicit pilot community applications*

Status: COMPLETE – see previous quarterly reports for details

Summer 2004

Milestone: *Finalize participant benefits and application requirements; hire CLEAN project manager.*

Status: COMPLETE – see previous quarterly reports for details

Winter/Spring 2004

Milestone: *Form partnerships; develop initial program details.*

Status: COMPLETE – see previous quarterly reports for details

Project Timetable

The seventh quarter activities presented in the project timetable were completed:

- Accept applications for municipalities joining the program: IDEM did not receive any applications during this quarter, but provided comments and suggestions on draft applications.
- Review final applications including site visits and compliance checks: IDEM did not receive any applications during this quarter, but provided comments and suggestions on draft applications.
- Review and announce municipalities meeting the Challenge (press release or event, plaques, street signs): No new communities were designated this quarter.
- Quantify success stories through monetary and environmental benefits: IDEM will quantify success stories through monetary and environmental benefits after submission of Indiana CLEAN Community Annual Reports. The first two annual reports are not due until August 2007.
- Begin development of final report: IDEM will begin development of the final report as October 2007 approaches.
- Respond to requests for assistance: Assistance is provided regularly to the pilot communities and any community interested in the program. During the seventh quarter, two phone calls and e-mails were taken from newly interested parties, and one presentation and one workshop were conducted.
- Begin designing and ordering outreach materials to promote CLEAN: A pinwheel has been designed to provide a quick-reference tool of best management practices for municipal activities along with a poster providing visual reference of the impacts from municipal operations. The pinwheel and poster work together to identify municipal impacts and best management practices to address such impacts. IDEM has printed fifty copies of the poster

to distribute at upcoming events and meetings with communities. The pinwheel is being reviewed by IDEM management. Additionally, window clings containing the CLEAN logo and community name were printed and provided to CLEAN Communities.

- Review annual reports submitted by participating municipalities and monitor environmental progress: The deadline for communities to submit an annual report is August 2007; therefore no annual reports have been received.

The project timetable and activities to be completed throughout the remaining life of the grant are listed in the following table:

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|--------------|---|
| October 2007 | Complete and submit Final Report to EPA; determine future of program including funding and office responsible for management; modify program as necessary |
|--------------|---|

Additional Information

- Through the U.S. EPA 2004 Demonstration Grant Program, IDEM contracted with the Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute (CMTI) to create a database identifying local government activities, aspects, impacts, best management practices, and a cost-benefit analysis to determine which best management practices would be most beneficial compared to cost of implementation. Additionally, the database provides users with a tool for identifying common environmental aspects associated with daily municipal operations, and places such aspects in matrix form so users can determine significant environmental aspects for purposes of the Indiana CLEAN Community Challenge.

The database was completed September 9, 2006. IDEM is making final updates to the information contained in the database. IDEM has received three requests for copies of the database.

- IDEM received 17 applications to its latest voluntary recognition program called the Indiana Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP). Through ESP, rule incentives are currently in draft form that will provide regulatory relief to ESP and CLEAN members. The rules will be finalized by each management board during spring 2007.