

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: September 4th, 2012

SUBJECT: CARRBORO WISE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM UPDATE

DEPARTMENT: TOWN MANAGER	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A – Resolution B - Possible Multifamily Projects	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Matt Efird (918-7314) Trish McGuire (918-7327) Randy Dodd (918-7326)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update on the status of the Carrboro WISE (Worthwhile Investments Save Energy) program and request that the Board of Aldermen consider an adjustment to the program design to allow for flexibility to use residential retrofit funds for single-family or multi-family projects.

INFORMATION

The initial round of \$75,000 in grant funds for the Carrboro WISE program was granted to the Town by the Southeastern Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) in December 2010. At that time, the majority of funds (\$55k) were budgeted for a commercial Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (EERLF), and \$5,000 was budgeted for residential audit subsidies. An additional round of “bonus pool” funding in the amount of \$50,000 was awarded in August 2011, and the program budget was amended to allocate \$34,650 for residential retrofits and an additional \$9,750 for residential audit subsidies. In January 2012, the Town was awarded a final allocation of \$165,000 to support the existing EERLF and residential retrofit programs and a multifamily pilot project. The current program budget allocations were as follows:

- EERLF - \$100,000 (\$55k from SEEA, \$45k from Town funds)
- Residential Audit Subsidy - \$24,750
- Residential Retrofits - \$89,650
- Multifamily Pilot Project - \$75,000
- Other (Admin, Marketing, QA/QC) - \$53,500
- Total SEEA Project Funds - \$342,900

To date, the WISE program has completed the following projects:

- EERLF Projects: 4 (Surplus Sid’s and 3 at the Venable Building)
- Residential Audits: 22 single family, 1 multifamily project
- Residential Retrofits: 6 (2 additional in progress)
- Multifamily Retrofits: 19 units

The WISE program has met the program goals for the EERLF program, though additional funding is available for additional projects. 25 of the 100 required residential projects have been

completed, and approximately \$120,000 is remaining to complete the additional projects (\$75k in single-family and \$45k in multifamily). From SEEA's standpoint, they do not differentiate between single-family and multifamily projects for the 100 unit goal.

Due to the low demand experienced in single-family projects and the high level of interest in multifamily retrofits, staff is requesting that the Board of Aldermen allow the flexibility in the WISE program design to use up to \$50k of the currently available \$75k in single-family residential funds for multifamily projects, leaving at least \$25k remaining for single-family projects. This would allow for the completion of at least 17 more single-family projects (at current subsidy levels) and between 60-100 additional multifamily units.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

None

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen consider the request to allow flexibility within the WISE program design to use residential retrofit funds for single-family or multifamily projects.