

ECICOG EXPRESS

SERVING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN BENTON, IOWA, JONES, JOHNSON, LINN AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS

SWAP awards help region's schools recycle

ECICOG was recently awarded a forgivable loan of \$11,050 on behalf of the Benton County Solid Waste Commission for the Benton County Schools Recycling Program. The loan was made through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP), and will assist the four school districts in Benton County to expand their recycling efforts and raise awareness about recycling.

The Benton County program is the third school recycling project funded within the ECICOG solid waste planning area. Previous successful projects were implemented in Jones County schools in 2005-2006 and in Tama County schools in 2008-2009.

A key component of the project is the education provided by ECICOG staff to one grade level in each school district. Lessons on waste management and resource conservation are well received by students and teachers, alike. New to the program are teacher resource kits that will provide tools to incorporate the solid waste unit into their curriculum after the project is completed. For more information on school recycling programs, contact **Kristin Simon** (ext. 126) at ECICOG.



Staff photography exhibited at state fair

Earlier this year two ECICOG staff members, Hilary Copeland and Gary Hughes, created an exhibit of original black and white photography for the lobby area of the ECICOG offices. The exhibit displays architectural features of each of the six courthouses in the ECICOG region.

Hughes submitted his photograph of an entrance to the Jones County Court House, and it was selected for display at the Iowa State Fair in August. The *Iowa Courthouses Themed Division for Adult/Black & White* photography exhibit was sponsored by the Iowa Bar Association, and included in the Photography Salon of the Cultural Center Building at the fair.

The Jones County Court House was constructed in 1936-1937 as one of several courthouses built in the state during the federal Public Works Administration program. As seen in Hughes' photograph of the south entrance, the building features many Art Deco details in its cut-stone facings and metalwork.

All six photographs of the courthouses in Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington Counties, which are on display in the ECICOG offices, will soon be available on the website, www.ecicog.org.



The south entrance of the Jones County Court House in Anamosa (Hughes 2009).

Recent funding awards

ECICOG received an award of \$11,050 from the IDNR for the Benton County Schools Recycling Program (see related article). With assistance from ECICOG, the Ladora Volunteer Fire Department received an award of \$90,921 from the US Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. Funds will be used to purchase new pants, coats, boots, helmets, gloves, air packs and pagers for the department. Current equipment is more than twenty years old. For more information on the AFG program, contact **Gary Hughes** (ext. 129) at ECICOG.

Grantee	Project	Award	Funding Agency
Ladora	New firefighter equipment	\$ 90,291	Homeland Security
ECICOG	Benton County Schools Recycling	\$ 11,050	IDNR
Total		\$101,341	

RLF assists region's businesses

After only a few months of operation, the ECICOG Business Assistance Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) has already begun to provide additional capital to area businesses. Accepted on an ongoing basis, applications are reviewed by the RLF Advisory Committee, and presented to the ECICOG Board of Directors for consideration.

Recent/pending awards are highlighted below.

Business	Location	Loan Amount	Jobs Created (first year)
Ovation Networks	Cedar Rapids	\$150,000	32
Soyawax	Cedar Rapids	\$50,000	8
AlphaGen Material Technology Inc.	Vinton	\$60,000	6
Bochner Confections Inc. *	Iowa City	\$189,912	10

*pending ECICOG Board approval, August 27, 2009.

Funding for the RLF is provided by the Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration, the Washington County Riverboat Foundation, and ECICOG. For more information, contact **Tracy DeKoter** (ext. 130) at ECICOG.

STAFF NOTES

In July, **Cary Stowe** resigned his position as housing specialist at ECICOG to accept a position with Iowa Workforce Development. Stowe is replaced by **Rob Arnold**, who began his duties at ECICOG in August. Arnold will assist with housing rehabilitation and repair programs, rental inspections, and disaster recovery programs.

Calendar

August 27	ECICOG Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG Offices, 700 16 th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m.
	Housing Fund for Linn County Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG Offices, 700 16 th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 5:00 p.m.
September 7	ECICOG offices closed in observance of the Labor Day holiday
September 17	ECICOG Transit Operators Group Meeting, location TBA
	ECICOG RLF Advisory Committee Meeting, ECICOG Offices, 700 16 th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 2:00 p.m.
September 24	ECICOG Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG Offices, 700 16 th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m.
	Housing Fund for Linn County Board of Directors Meeting, ECICOG Offices, 700 16 th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 5:00 p.m.

ECICOG was established in 1973 to promote regional cooperation and provide professional planning services to local governments in Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington Counties. ECICOG also provides solid waste planning services to Tama County and transportation planning services to Cedar County.

Members of the ECICOG Board of Directors:

Lu Barron	Don Magdefrau
Connie Champion	Adam Mangold
Leo Cook	Charles Montross
Bill Daily	David Plyman
Gary Edwards	Ed Raber
Don Gray	Ben Rogers
Dennis Hansen	Sally Stutsman
Ann Hearn	David Vermedahl
Henry Herwig (Chair)	Larry Wilson
Marty Kelzer	Linda Yoder
Linda Langston	

ECICOG Staff

EXT

Doug Elliott, <i>Executive Director</i>	122
Gina Peters, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	120
Mary Rump, <i>Transportation Services</i>	128
Robyn Jacobson, <i>Transportation Services</i>	134
Gina Johnson, <i>Mobility Manager</i>	137
Hilary Copeland, <i>GIS Services</i>	125
Chad Sands, <i>AICP, Comm. Development</i>	127
Adam Ralston, <i>Comm. Development</i>	133
Gary Hughes, <i>Comm. Development</i>	129
Rob Arnold, <i>Housing Services</i>	124
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Tracy DeKoter, <i>Disaster Recovery</i>	130
Diana Stromer, <i>Program Assistant</i>	123
Melanie Riley, <i>Disaster Recovery</i>	138

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EAST CENTRAL IOWA
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
YOUR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Express is a bimonthly electronic publication of the East Central Iowa Council of Governments.