

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: August 9, 2010
	Agenda Item No. 23 Roll Call No. <u>10-1281</u> Communication No. <u>10-501</u> Submitted by: Matthew A. Anderson, Economic Development Administrator

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing the Mayor to sign a grant application for funding in the amount of \$50,000 from the Iowa Office of Energy Independence (OEI) as part of the Power Fund Community Grant program, and to negotiate with Natural Capitalism, a professional company, on an agreement to jointly implement an education program on improved sustainability for businesses.

SYNOPSIS:

The OEI has invited the submission of applications by cities, counties, non profits and other organizations to the Power Fund Community Grant program. The grants are intended to assist in the creation of local programs to save energy. The City of Des Moines application will focus on facilitating a sustainability education and training program for the business community that is designed to provide energy cost saving tools and recommendations in a peer environment. The firm Natural Capitalism has been selected by the Office of Energy Independence to provide the education program proposed to be funded with the OEI Power Fund Community Grant given their expertise and the short time frame required by the grant.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Not to exceed \$50,000 (1:1 match)

Funding Sources: Program participation fees from 8-10 participating businesses, City staff time and in kind contributions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City of Des Moines has set a goal to be a leader in setting policies and practicing service delivery innovations to promote environmental sustainability. The proposed program can further this community goal by providing a grass-roots education opportunity for businesses and building owners that are facing the increasing costs of managing the heating, cooling, water, waste and lighting needs of their facilities. In conjunction with OEI and the firm Natural Capitalism, the City of Des Moines proposes to facilitate the provision of an intensive and productive education program for the improved sustainability of businesses.

It is recognized that for businesses to continue to invest in growth, expansion and the creation of new jobs, it is critical for them to be able to efficiently manage their ongoing operational costs. Energy costs,

particularly for older buildings, can prohibit the provision of competitive lease space and not allow maximum sustainable use of office, warehouse, and distribution and production space.

The grant application is due August 13. Grant agreement and formal agreement with Natural Capitalism will be presented for Council approval at a later date. If the Power Fund Community Grant is awarded, the program would be initiated with a group of 8-10 business owners, and be conducted from fall 2010 to spring 2011.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION (S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION (S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Acceptance of grant, if awarded, and presentation of formal agreements to City Council for approval.

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