



# Why Are We Loaning Money?

That's not the city's job!

Chris Ball
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City of Bloomfield

# Why Do We Do Anything at All?

City governments exist to serve the members of their communities.

Municipal utilities exist to serve the customers of those utilities.



#### Our Structure

**City Council** 

City Clerk

Energy Efficiency Director Director of Public Works

Electricity

Natural Gas

Water/Sewer



# Energy Independent by 2030

- The city council set a goal to produce ALL of the electricity consumed within the city limits locally by 2030.
- It's cheaper to use less energy than produce energy.





# IAMU Energy Independent Study



According to the study produced by IAMU, Bloomfield can reduce electrical consumption by 23% using cost effective EE measures.



# Access to Capital Can Be Tough

Over 50% of the households in Bloomfield have LOW to MODERATE incomes.

Bank loans may not be an option.





# But - It's Not a Poverty Thing



Almost half of all Americans are unable to come up with \$2,000 in cash within 30 days, without selling or pawning possessions.

http://www.nber.org/papers/w17072.pdf



#### 2015 Pilot Program

- The city council allocated \$150,000 towards an on-bill financing pilot project on October 7, 2015
- Want to finance 10-15 projects that are known energy hogs
- Prefer projects that are easy to implement and finish quickly



#### Program Goals

- Test the process. Work out the kinks
  - Application
  - Approval
  - Billing and tracking finances
  - Monitoring implementation
  - Working with vendors/contractors
- Measure changes in energy consumption
- Generate community awareness
- Evaluate program expansion



## Financial Details

- \$15,000 maximum loan
- No application fee
- 2% interest
- \$100 origination fee
- Aim for bill neutrality
- Loan length 5-10 years





## Proposed EE Measures

- Furnaces
- Air conditioners
- Appliances
- Ground-source heat pumps
- Water heaters

- Tankless water heaters
- Insulation
- Lighting
- Duct improvements
- Weatherization
- Ceiling fans



# **Applicant Qualification**

- No formal credit check
- No "posts" in last 12 months
- Must be owner occupied





#### Pilot Process

- Identify potential applicants who will best support pilot program goals
- Pre-application energy audit
- Applicant gets estimates
- Application reviewed/approved
- Install data loggers
- Install measures
- Post-installation energy audit
- Remove data loggers
- Analyze



# Vendor Directory

City intends to publish a vendor/contractor directory of local vendors.

Directory listing will not be a recommendation by the city. All vendors/contractors that complete a listing application will be listed.

Intent is to weed out lesser qualified vendors through the application process.

# After the Pilot Program



Assuming the pilot project goes well, Bloomfield hopes to secure outside funding to expand the program.



#### Resources

 Environmental & Energy Study Institute (EESI)



Cedar Falls Utilities



City of Woodbine





# Acknowledgements

The following organizations have contributed significantly to the development of Bloomfield's On-Bill Pilot Project

- Environmental & Energy Study Institute
- Iowa Economic Development Authority
- Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities
- Cedar Falls Utilities
- City of Woodbine
- AmeriCorps VISTA under Operation AmeriCorps



#### Thank You!

Feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions.

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