





Planning & Development Services

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TO: Commissioner Lauren Poe
THRU: Russ Blackburn, City Manager 
FROM: Erik A. Bredfeldt, Planning and Development Services Director 
DATE: January 28, 2009
SUBJECT: Response to inquiry regarding Energy Efficiency Renovations in Enterprise Zone

A question was raised in November of last year regarding the ability of general government to facilitate increased energy efficiency within the Enterprise Zone via existing GRU programs.

The Enterprise Zone comprises approximately ten square miles comprising roughly 1/6th of the City's existing land mass. With approximately 6,000 to 6,500 outstanding entities with Business Tax licenses Citywide, the Enterprise Zone likely absorbs a concentrated number of these as its boundaries coincide with several large non-residential zoned districts within the City. In addition, the Enterprise Zone additionally overlays many residentially developed, as well as vacant, properties.

The Enterprise Zone offers a menu of capital investment and job creation incentives via the State of Florida to entities located within its geographic boundaries however their focus is not necessarily on facilitating energy efficiency improvements.

In reviewing the menu of existing GRU energy efficiency programs, there appear to be many opportunities for businesses and residents to participate in an incentive based context. Furthermore, the upcoming implementation of the Solar Feed in Tariff will presumably enhance opportunities in pursuing energy efficiency in the solar realm but will likely also re-sensitize the community to the pursuit of energy efficiency in global terms.

Currently, General Government, via the Planning and Development Services Department, does hold quarterly information meetings regarding the Enterprise Zone throughout the community. The Department also provides written material and information to the public via Communications Department resources such as Channel 12.

It may make sense to enhance the coordination of information provision from the General Government side and to establish potential linkages between the menu of existing Enterprise Zone incentives and the energy efficiency programs offered by GRU.