



**DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024
(In Office and Remote)**

A G E N D A

(Times listed are estimates and may fluctuate depending
on length of discussion.)

Time*

9:30 a.m.

Weed Initiative Update

Energy Efficiency Block Grant Update

Agenda Item

DATE: February 27, 2024
TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
THROUGH: DOUGLAS J. DEBORD, COUNTY MANAGER
FROM: TERENCE T. QUINN, AICP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CC: JANET HERMAN, P.E., DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
DAN ROBERTS, P.E., ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
STEVE SHOULTZ, CPRE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS, TRAILS AND
BUILDING GROUNDS
SUBJECT: WEED INITIATIVE UPDATE

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SUMMARY

In 2023, Douglas County staff was directed by the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners to research and analyze organic herbicides against Round-up and 24D, currently used for weed control in the County.

Chemicals included in the assessment are:

- Round-up: Non-selective, synthetic
- Finalsan: Non-selective, organic (Round-up Alternative)
- Scythe: Non-selective, organic (Round-up Alternative)
- 24D: Selective, synthetic
- Fiesta: Selective, organic (24D Alternative)

DISCUSSION

All chemicals used for weed management are 100% effective. The difference in the chemicals is the number of applications required to reach 100% efficacy. Round-up and 24D have the lowest application-to-efficacy rates and are the least expensive. Organic chemicals are more expensive and require more applications to achieve 100% efficacy.

NEXT STEPS

Staff is prepared to discuss options and next steps with the Board.

Agenda Item

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2024
TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
THROUGH: DOUGLAS J. DEBORD, COUNTY MANAGER
FROM: DAN AVERY, SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER
SUBJECT: ENERGY EFFICIENCY BLOCK GRANT UPDATE

SUMMARY

Douglas County is eligible to receive a formula allocation of \$241,260 in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding from the Department of Energy. EECBG funds can be used for a broad range of activities. To date, staff has submitted a “Pre-Award Interest Form”, but no formal application. To assist staff in preparing the County’s application by April 30, 2024, staff requests guidance on:

1. Whether the Board remains interested in receiving this funding
2. The types of activities the Board is interested in funding over a two-year project period.

Staff is not requesting specific project authorizations at this time and would bring a formal application to a business meeting for Board approval.

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

Local governments can receive EECBG funding as a grant to be administered by the jurisdiction for any allowable use, or a voucher/equipment rebate for a narrower set of activities. Entities receiving less than \$250,000 are strongly encouraged to consider the voucher/equipment rebate option. Allocations totaling \$250,000 or less are also exempt from Build America Buy America (BABA) requirements. Local Governments must submit an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy identifying program goals and objectives.

ALLOWABLE USES

- Strategy Development/Implementation
- Retaining Technical Consulting Services
- Building Energy Audits
- Financial Incentives for Energy Efficiency
- Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grants for Government Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities
- Conservation of Transportation Energy
- Building Codes and Inspection Services
- Energy Distribution Technologies
- Material Conservation Programs
- Reduction, Capture, and Use of Landfill Gases
- Replacement of Traffic Signals and Street Lighting
- On-site Renewable Energy On or In a Government Building
- Programs for Financing, Purchasing, and Installing Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Zero-emission Transportation (and associated infrastructure) Measures and Capital Investments, Projects, and Programs for Leveraging Public and Private Sector Funds

POTENTIAL COUNTY ACTIVITIES

During the work session, staff will present details on a subset of potential uses for Board consideration and discussion. These include:

1. Acquisition of electric lawn and garden equipment by June 1, 2026 to ensure compliance with new Colorado Air Quality Control Commission regulations. Affected equipment includes aerators, brush cutters, chainsaws, edgers, trimmers, blowers, power washers, push mowers, pruners, and wood splitters. US Department of Energy representatives have pre-authorized this use of funds. (Parks, Open Space, Public Works Operations, and Facilities.)
2. Ongoing transition of County facilities to LED light fixtures. (Facilities)
3. Bike lane and pedestrian Improvements in Inverness. (Engineering)
4. Acquisition of additional electric vehicles and chargers for use by willing and interested County departments. (Fleet)
5. Traffic signal synchronization at Highlands Ranch Parkway and Broadway (PWE)
6. Additional Public EV charging stations on County property in conjunction with CORE.
7. Grant program for energy efficiency upgrades benefiting homeowners or nonprofit entities.

NEXT STEPS

Staff welcomes discussion and direction from the Board on EECBG fund activities.