



# GOLDEN URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY

## Memorandum

To: GURA Board of Commissioners  
From: Mark Heller  
Date: May 3, 2007  
RE: Sonoran Institute Community Energy Future Institute

The Sonoran Institute ([www.sonoran.org](http://www.sonoran.org)) provides tools, training, policy recommendations and technical assistance to support planning, policies and decisions that protect air, land and water. Projects range from promoting smart-growth strategies to honoring innovative, sustainable development to organizing community-vision workshops. Sonoran will present a 3 day training on sustainability programming this June and invited communities from its 8 state region to apply. I applied and Golden was among those selected. The agenda follows.

### Agenda

*Sonoran Institute Community Energy Futures Institute  
June 6-9, 2007  
Two Rivers Convention Center  
Grand Junction, CO*

#### Wednesday, June 6

##### 5:30-9:00 PM **Opening Reception/Dinner**

*Up to eight community teams from across the Intermountain West will be together for the next three days helping each other make a difference in their energy future. Here you'll get to know one another, introduce your community and its issues to your peers, begin the dialogue leading to meaningful change and establish relationships that will provide ongoing ideas and support for your local effort.*

#### Thursday, June 7

##### 7:30-8:30 AM **Breakfast/Informal conversation**

8:30-10:00 AM **The Right Start: Setting a Baseline/Creating Goals**

*You've made the commitment to change, but what does that involve? What are your goals and how will you measure progress? This session, featuring panelists from communities large and small, will help you determine appropriate techniques for measuring your community's energy consumption and carbon footprint and also assist in focusing you on meaningful and achievable goals.*

10:00-10:15 AM **Break**

10:15-11:45 AM **Community Engagement/Communications Strategies**

*How do you move past changing a few light bulbs in City Hall and buying a couple of hybrids or flex fuel vehicles for your city's fleet? Successful efforts engage the entire community in changing patterns of energy consumption. Experts on this panel will help you involve individual citizens, local businesses, non-profit organizations and public agencies in making yours a true community campaign.*

12:00-1:15 PM **Lunch**

1:30-3:00 PM **Building Public & Private Partnerships/"The Big Bang"**

*Progress is incremental but there are proven methods that provide more "bang for the buck" and inspire your community. Collaborating with local businesses and public institutions such schools, hospitals and other facilities can generate the excitement critical to long term success in realizing your goals. Business and community leaders will tell you how to repeat their successes in your community.*

3:00-3:15 PM **Break**

3:15-4:45 pm **Resources for Success (Technical & Financial)**

*The budget is tight and in-house experts are few and far between. How can you possibly mount a successful effort toward meaningful change in your community's energy footprint? Panelists will outline where you can go for the technical and financial help you need. You're not in this alone and there are federal, state and local public and private resources that will make you successful.*

4:45-5:00 PM **Wrap & Debrief/What's Next**

*After each session, you've had time to work with your team to incorporate what you've learned into an action plan for your community. This is your chance to fill in the blanks and exchange ideas with your peers.*

6:00-9:00 PM **Reception & Dinner**

**Friday June 8**

7:30-8:30 AM **Breakfast/informal conversation**

8:30-10:00 AM **Conservation and Efficiency – “The Vegetables”**

*It’s been said that “You have to eat your energy conservation vegetables before you can have your alternative energy dessert.” Here’s where you find out that vegetables can be both tasty and filling. Cost savings from energy efficiency can be a key initial motivator for most communities. Panel members will help you decide where to focus your efforts for immediate and lasting results.*

10:00-10:15 AM Break

10:15-11:45 AM **Renewable/Alternative Supplies – “The Dessert”**

*You’ve polished off the vegetables. Now it’s time for dessert. Learn effective ways to begin incorporating alternative sources into your energy mix. Every dollar you don’t spent with outside energy suppliers stays in your community and helps drive your local economy. Whether it’s wind, solar, hydro, geothermal or something else, alternative resources are available for every locale.*

12:00-11:15 PM **Lunch**

1:30-3:00 PM **Land Use Strategies to Reduce Energy Consumption**

*Conservation and alternative supplies can effect immediate change in your energy use. But how do you make real progress long term? One way is to make certain your community understands that how it grows impacts future rates of energy consumption. This panel will present land use planning techniques that can significantly reduce energy use as your community expands.*

3:00-3:15 PM **Break**

3:15-4:45 PM **Green Building Strategies**

*Just as the way you build your community can impact energy consumption, so can the way your individual homes and businesses are constructed. Green building is nothing new. This panel of builders and other experts will discuss strategies, including the various certification programs, that will make certain new construction and remodeling incorporate both efficiency and evolving technologies.*

4:45-5:00 PM **Wrap and Debrief/What’s Next?**

*This is another chance to make certain you’re getting what you need out of this “boot camp.” Help us fill in any holes that will assure you’re successful when you return home.*

6:30-9:00 PM **Dinner on your own**

*You need a break! This is your evening out on the town with your team and a chance to get to know your new friends from across the West in an informal setting. Enjoy the many fine eating and drinking establishments within walking distance in downtown Grand Junction.*

## **Saturday, June 9**

7:30-8:30 AM **Breakfast/informal conversation**

8:30-10:00 AM **Sustainable Transportation Strategies**

*Few areas have more potential to significantly impact our energy consumption than the way we move about our communities. Whether in our private cars or in public transit, the decisions we make drive personal and public costs and determine our impact on the environment. This panel will help you determine strategies for positive change in community transportation patterns.*

10:00-10:15 AM **Break**

10:15-11:45 AM **The Supply Side – Working with Your Energy Providers**

*Whether your community provides power to its citizens or relies on a rural electric cooperative or an investor-owned utility, provider partnerships can be a key element in restructuring energy demand and supply. This panel will examine those opportunities and discuss how communities can encourage providers to become key players in a more positive energy future.*

12:00-1:15 PM **Lunch**

1:30-3:00 PM **Refining Community Goals/Strategies/Actions**

*Now the rubber hits the road! Working from notes and your discussions after each panel, you'll be assisted by Sonoran Institute staff and some of the panelists in drafting an action plan for your community. Your plan will include each of the elements you've heard about in a manner appropriate to your local circumstances and help assure success when you return home.*

3:00-3:15 PM **Break**

3:15-4:45 PM **Team Presentations/Peer Review**

*Each team will present its action plan for group discussion. You'll benefit from comments and perhaps pick up a few more tips to incorporate into your local effort. Sonoran Institute staff and remaining panelists will also assist in this review. This final team exercise will also reinforce the relationships with other communities that will foster ongoing communication and collaboration.*

4:45-5:00 PM **Wrap Up and Evaluation**

*You'll evaluate your time in Grand Junction and help the Sonoran Institute make the next Community Energy Futures Institute even more successful. And we'll talk about follow up assistance to your communities and participation in the CEFI Learning Network that will promote ongoing communication between attending teams and open up learning opportunities to other communities in the West.*