

Energy Assistance Committee Meeting Columbus, August 9, 2007

Attending: Judi Martin, Ardi Hoins, Jerry Deichert, Krista Heineman

The committee met with the Energy Education Committee prior to the NEAN meeting and reviewed the Energy Forum Program Assessment Report dated, July 25, 2007, presented by Jerry Deichert (UNO)

The groups discussed ideas for future kits, perhaps considering a renter kit and an owner kit.

After Jerry's presentation, he joined our committee and informed us of the kick-off of the Energy Burden Study. Some of the items discussed:

- Ardi will lead efforts to collect information from the Community Action Agency's in Nebraska on the funds they distribute for energy assistance. She will work to gather information on assistance provided by FEMA, Homeless – Emergency Shelter grant funds, and through the Nebraska Homeless Trust Fund which collects .25 cents from the documentary revenue funds, some which is used for energy assistance.
- Each utility that sponsors a utility assistance fund will be asked to provide this information.
- Jerry will provide us with the format that he will want the data collected.
- Jerry will use the American Community Survey which is done each year with 1 in 10 rural, 1 in 40 urban areas. There are samples of information on factfinder.census.gov.
- There will be 800 surveys completed. The target is 800 with 500 in the OPPD area. The 300 outside the OPPD will be random. Presently getting bids on cost to have them completed. The timeline is completion by the end of August.
- The Energy Symposium format was discussed. It may include Energy Burden Study, Using Energy Wisely forum results, NEAN information, National LIHEAP Day information, Energy Assistance Programs available.

Data Collection:

The EA committee will distribute a draft protocol to the membership. The Executive Committee reviewed it and made some changes. United Way agreed to be the "host" of the data. Judi will ask the NEAN utility members if they would like to have a meeting scheduled with appropriate staff to agree on data being collected.

Submitted by: Judi Martin