

Huntsville's Nexus Energy Center Partners with SEEA on \$20 Million U.S. DOE Award to Promote Energy Efficiency

Nexus Energy Center in Huntsville, Alabama will work with Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance as well as Local Businesses to Promote Energy Related Projects for North Alabama

Huntsville, AL, April 28, 2010 – The Nexus Energy Center is a non-profit non-governmental organization in Huntsville, Alabama that has created a consortium of talented partners dedicated to bringing energy solutions to the north Alabama community. Nexus has been able to grow its business and research supporters in less than a year to over 40 companies, universities, non-profits, and municipalities from the Huntsville and North Alabama area. Ruchi Singhal, the executive director of Nexus Energy Center, also served on Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle's Green 13 Sustainability Taskforce as the Energy Team lead where a comprehensive report was developed on how to make Huntsville more sustainable. One recommendation was to increase awareness and implementation of energy efficiency in the residential and commercial sector, a goal that can now be directly addressed by this award. Nexus will receive a great boost from its sub-grantee partnership with the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA).

Nexus first was introduced to SEEA in May 2009 when competing for funding to create an Energy Alliance for Huntsville. Although, Huntsville was not a winner in that solicitation, SEEA saw great merit in the work that Nexus proposed and included Huntsville as the only Alabama city in their subsequent application to DOE Retrofit Ramp-Up initiative. Huntsville, along with 14 other southeastern cities, was included in the SEEA application that showcased an impressive consolidated effort by the entire southeast region of the U.S. On April 21, 2010, Vice President Biden, announced the 25 winners of the Retrofit Ramp-Up award, of which SEEA was granted \$20 million.

The regional organization, SEEA, will partner with Nexus to increase the energy efficiency of small and large residential, commercial and public buildings. Another key aspect of the program, which will use a combined formula allocation and a pay-for-performance strategy to fund specific projects, will be the availability of affordable, accessible financing programs. "This large infusion of funding from DOE into the Southeast provides an unprecedented opportunity to promote energy efficiency and innovation while also creating jobs in this tough economy," said SEEA Executive Director Ben Taube. "SEEA is looking forward to working with our various community partners across the region as we go forward and transform the market."

The guiding principal for the Nexus Energy Center is to foster networking for the members of our community businesses, organizations, and universities that are striving for new energy strategies for America. Nexus promotes a balance of analysis and creativity toward the conservation, generation, storage, and transmission of energy. This particular grant melds with the energy conservation goals of the center. Nexus will be able to bridge the gap that has led to less than ideal participation in energy efficiency projects by businesses and citizens in the

past. Nexus will remain in contact with the City in order to convey the progress of this audit ramp up initiative. Nexus will also work closely with SEEA in various capacities such as development of financing strategies.

“We heard the news of the DOE award on the eve of Earth Day ironically while attending an Oak Ridge Symposium on Energy Solutions,” said Nexus director Ruchi Singhal. “We feel this is a great victory for Huntsville and the entire Southeast, who will soon realize the monetary benefits of energy efficiency in the workplace and at home. In addition, we feel strongly that Huntsville will see economic development and green job creation through these energy efficiency efforts.”

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The Nexus Energy Center plans to roll out this program early July. For more information on Nexus Energy Center visit www.nexusenergycenter.org. More information on the SEEA program can be found at <http://www.seealliance.org/programs/cities.php>.