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**NEBRASKA ENERGY OFFICE AWARDED \$276,417 GRANT
FOR BUILDING ENERGY CODE INFORMATION, TRAINING AND COMPLIANCE**

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Energy Office received a \$276,417 grant to assist with the update, training and compliance of energy efficient building energy codes in Nebraska. The grant was awarded by the Pacific Northwest Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Energy efficient buildings save homeowners and businesses energy and money and reduce the need for new power plants which, in turn, can raise utility rates.

Under the grant, the Energy Office will:

- Evaluate 100 newly built homes to assess compliance with existing building energy codes;
- Evaluate existing building energy code knowledge among key groups;
- Measure the economic value of updated energy codes on Nebraska's economy;
- Provide information about the benefits of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code;
- Provide at least six training sessions on the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code for builders, codes officials, engineers and architects; and
- Develop energy code compliance strategies.

The 2003 International Energy Conservation Code is the energy code currently in effect in Nebraska. The International Code is revised every three years, however, a study of the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code indicated it was less effective in Nebraska's climate regions. The 2012 Energy Code is currently being developed.

Small Investments Reap Big Savings Over the Years

A review last year of the 2003 and 2009 International Energy Conservation Codes found that the cost of compliance for a new nearly 1,900 square foot home in Omaha was \$476, but realized \$164 in yearly savings. Since most homes have an 80 year lifespan, savings at today's energy costs would total more than \$13,000. In the rest of the state, the construction costs were lower, so there was an instant payback for complying with the 2009 Code.

The Nebraska Energy Office was created in 1977 to promote the efficient, economic and environmentally responsible use of energy. It is an authoritative voice and comprehensive resource center for energy issues in the State of Nebraska. In addition, the energy office plays an important role in fostering new growth in our renewable energy industry and helping Nebraska lead the way in the new clean energy economy. For more information, please visit www.neo.ne.gov.