Quinn Administration Announces $400,000 Grant to Support Installation of Solar Energy at DuQuoin Industrial Park

Project Will Increase Energy Savings, Spur Economic Growth, and Create Green Jobs

DUQUOIN – Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Director Warren Ribley today announced that the State is providing the City of DuQuoin a $405,000 grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to install an expandable solar photovoltaic system within the DuQuoin Industrial Park. The project will provide significant energy savings for industrial park users and further the state’s green goals.

"Governor Quinn and I recognize the ability of the green industry to serve as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation. DuQuoin’s renewable energy project will create six construction jobs using American-made technology, and will ultimately lower utility costs for businesses in the Park," said Director Ribley. Through these investments, we are reducing the state’s dependence on foreign oils and moving Illinois towards a more sustainable future."

The 90-acre industrial park has been developed according to Urban Land Institute standards. The solar project will help businesses located within the industrial park offset the cost of electric power with solar power. The system will generate approximately 198,044 kWh of electricity annually. Generating this amount of renewable energy is equivalent to removing 27 cars from the road, decreasing oil consumption by 331 barrels, or planting 3,647 trees.

The City of DuQuoin is directing a portion of the energy generation to the industrial occupants as a
means to offset the costs of locating in DuQuoin and thus creating and retaining employment.

"I am thankful to Governor Quinn for giving us this grant opportunity. Since the park is a little ways off of the interstate, this grant will be very helpful attracting businesses to our community," said Mayor John Rednour, City of DuQuoin.

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The funding is being provided through the State’s Community Renewable Energy Program, a component of the State’s Energy Plan, and supports the installation of renewable energy projects, such as solar or wind projects.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Illinois received over $130 million to implement the State’s Energy Plan, Illinois’ most comprehensive effort to date to address the state’s energy production needs. More than 12,000 green sector jobs are being created over the next two years as a result of the Plan, which is administered by DCEO’s State Energy Office. For more information, visit www.ildceo.net.

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Warren Ribley, Director