About Guam Energy Office

The Guam Energy Office (GEO) was first established in 1974 by Public Law 12-101 requiring GEO to comply with the rules and regulations adopted by the Federal Energy Office following the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973. This federal statute was repealed in 1977 when U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) was evolved and required States and Territories to issue their own mandates for energy offices to receive federal dollars. Through the years, Executive Orders placed GEO within other Guam entities until Governor Ricky Bordallo issued Executive Order 83-004 to have GEO as a single state agency in the Executive Branch to apply for federal energy grants. GEO continues to be 100% federally funded through the assistance of USDOE to implement grant programs focused on promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy to reduce energy consumption, reduce reliance on foreign oil, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

OUR STRATEGY

The Guam Energy Office is committed to promote energy efficiency and provide energy saving solutions to help Guam reduce fossil fuel dependency and reduce carbon footprint from human activity, leading to a sustainable energy future.

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Reaching out to the Community

GEO replaced an old refrigerator with an energy efficient one in the house of senior couple living in Dededo after qualifying for free WAP services.

Along with Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio and Senator Frank Aguon, GEO recognized 9 students as winners of the 2017 Energy Poster & Essay Contest. Over 350 entries were submitted by students from participating elementary, middle & high schools island-wide.

With the remaining Petroleum Violation Escrow dollars received in the early 1980s, GEO built the Pacific Energy Resource Center to house the office and showcase energy efficiency and architectural green design. This 3500 square-footage building serves as a demonstration model for island residents wanting to make their homes more energy efficient to reduce their energy consumption. With large windows at the north wall, insulation at southwest wall and on rooftop, daylighting application to brighten up room space along with Energy Star® energy efficient lighting, air-conditioning units, office equipment, and solar system for net metering, GEO’s monthly power consumption continues to remain significantly low.
STATE ENERGY PROGRAM

USDOE’s State Energy Program provides funding to energy offices of States & Territories to maximize the benefits of reducing energy waste, advance energy initiatives, and enhance energy security tailored to their local needs. With the grant dollars made available, GEO continues to provide technical assistance on energy data for GovGuam agencies for economic analysis, hold training and workshops on energy related topics, sponsor annual energy poster & essay contest for schools and much more.

On April 28th, GEO sponsored a tour to Dandan Solar Farm for GovGuam officials. Guam Power Authority’s largest renewable project is the solar farm in the south consisting of 121,792 panels spread out over 160 acres of land to produce 25.65 MegaWatts of clean, emission-free energy keeping Guam beautiful for generations to come.

GEO sponsored the Guam Energy Expo at the Micronesia Mall in June to reach out to the community to invest in energy efficiency products to reduce their monthly power bills. The University of Guam’s Center of Island Sustainability, Guam Power Authority, and energy-related businesses provided interactive booths featuring energy services and products.

Leading the Regional Energy Committee, GEO presented to Governor Calvo (center), CNMI Governor and Presidents of FSM, RMI and Palau on renewable projects & energy issues at the 22nd Micronesian Islands Forum on May 2017 at Hyatt Regency Guam.

PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROGRAM

GEO continues to make available Plug-In Electric Vehicle Rebates to island residents purchasing a new electric vehicle from a participating dealership. Public Law 32-164 has set-aside money from the General Fund to encourage island residents to purchase electric vehicles to reduce their cost at the fuel pump by realizing savings of about $200.

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

USDOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provides funding to States & Territories to help reduce energy costs for low income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety. GEO continues to reach out to eligible elderlies, individuals with disabilities, and families with children to apply and receive free WAP services. Based on household income and acceptable housing infrastructure, GEO conducts whole-house approach analysis to determine replacement of refrigerators, lighting and air-cooling units including installation of weather strips on windows/doors, low-flow aerators on faucets, and smoke detectors. Determination to qualify starts with total household income based on chart.

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<th>FAMILY SIZE</th>
<th>MAXIMUM INCOME (not to exceed)</th>
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CHALLENGES

- Constant moving target to start projects as a result of delay on issuance of procuring services and materials.
- Finding eligible low-income families with appropriate documents wanting to apply for free WAP services.
- Encouraging residents to consider purchasing electric vehicle to zero out monthly gasoline cost, receive federal tax credit and rebate money.
- Hiring permanent employees to build institutional knowledge for program stability in a timely manner.
- Incorporating unfunded local mandates into allowable grant activities.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

- Plan and implement allowable energy projects/activities tailored to the island community utilizing federal dollars.
- Continue leveraging dollars by tapping into other funding sources, i.e. DOL Senior Citizen part timers to assist with clerical tasks, housekeeping, and yard work.
- Collect energy data for technical support to GovGuam entities.
- Continue dialog with national, regional, local public entities and organizations regarding energy related information.
- Work with public and private sectors addressing major construction build-ups to incorporate energy efficiency and renewable energy and promote energy diversification leading to the island’s resiliency and sustainable energy future.
- Support GovGuam morale events and other related activities.
- Consider options for GEO to continue as a line agency or be part of a large department funded locally.