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Utah Buildings Hold Key to Substantial Energy Savings

Government and Industry Leaders Discuss Building Energy Efficiency Strategies

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – Today, diverse experts from a variety of fields gathered at the **Fidelity Investments Regional Operating Center at 4 Gateway Office** to discuss issues critical to meeting Utah's energy needs by implementing building energy efficiency strategies.

UBEES expects to play a significant role in meeting Utah's energy goal of a 20% improvement in energy efficiency by 2015. Best practices being used in state government - to cut the \$60 million expended annually for energy in its 44.47 million square feet of building space - will be shared with Utah's private sector businesses, industrial facilities, and homes. The goal is to create enormous energy savings across Utah's entire economy.

The Governors' Energy Advisor, Dr. Dianne R. Nielson, introduced the formation of the partnership, known as Utah Building Energy Efficiency Strategies (UBEES). It began with support from the National Governor's Association and included the Utah State Energy Program, the non-profit, Utah Clean Energy, and the state's facility management group, DFCM. The collaboration is designed to advance energy efficiency and high performance buildings in Utah. The meeting sought to gain first-hand knowledge from Utah's foremost experts about pathways to encourage Utah businesses to utilize best practices in energy efficiency and high performance building.

Governor Herbert complimented the group, "All three of my administration goals of energy, economic development and education are reflected in the UBEES charter. I support this private-public collaboration as the best way to implement energy and monetary savings in the State."

Participants included real estate, utilities, architecture, clean energy groups, engineering, state and local building managers, workforce development, lawmakers, and others. In-depth discussions on adoption and enforcement of building energy codes, measuring building energy use, energy efficiency education, and career opportunities in building efficiency were held. Spencer P. Eccles, executive director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) opened the event and noted that benchmarking and tracking energy use is the first step in the energy saving process. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), an energy lab of the U.S. DOE, contributed to the event by facilitating break-out sessions.

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