

Contact: J. Lyn Carl  
Phone 512-531-3936

Barton Oaks Plaza One  
901 S. MoPac Expressway  
Suite. 100  
Austin, Texas 78746  
Phone 512-531-3900  
Fax 512-531-3990

Strategic Partnerships,  
Inc.

# Press Release

For immediate release

## Giles cites energy-related funds headed to Texas

Government marketplace will be rich with contracting opportunities from Recovery Act funding

**HOUSTON (10/14/09)** - “Spending in communities like yours both in Texas and nationwide for green jobs, energy efficiency projects and energy conservation initiatives is about to get a \$22 billion funding infusion,” said Deborah Giles, senior managing consultant for Austin-based Strategic Partnerships, Inc., “and for energy-related businesses in Texas, that translates to a government marketplace rich with contracting opportunities.”

Giles’ remarks came today, Wednesday, during the first day of the Clean Air Through Energy Efficiency (CATEE) 2009 conference being held through Friday at the Renaissance Houston Greenway Plaza. Giles was joined by Lisa Elledge of the office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts and Michael DeYoung of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to give an overview of the impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the business opportunities that will arise in the energy industry as a result of the funding.

Giles noted that the federal government has made a significant commitment to energy efficiency in the Recovery Act, from rehabilitation and retrofitting of public housing to weatherization of homes of low-income families to pilot programs for alternative-fueled vehicles. “Approximately \$16.7 billion has been allocated just to promote state and local weatherization and energy efficiency projects,” she said.

The funds are making their way to a variety of government entities – state agencies, cities, counties, public school districts, institutions of higher education, nonprofits, public hospitals, river authorities, transportation authorities and more. Virtually every segment of government will be eligible for funding – and in every part of the state.

The Texas State Energy Program alone has been allocated \$218.78 million in funding for energy conservation and efficiency projects, said Giles. Administered by the State Energy

Conservation Office of the State Comptroller grant funds will be allocated for projects that include installation of energy-efficient LED traffic signal lights, conversion of fleets to alternative fuels, constructing refueling stations for alternative fuel vehicles, energy management systems, high-efficiency lighting fixtures and lamps and alternative fuel, hybrid and electric vehicles, to name a few.

Another \$208.76 million in block grants in Texas dedicated to energy efficiency and conservation also are available and can be used for energy audits and retrofits for buildings, installation of energy-efficient traffic signals and street lights and installation of renewable energy technologies on government buildings.

Not only has the Recovery Act been a boon to governments, said Giles, but it also is providing billions of dollars worth of contracting opportunities statewide that are aimed at boosting the economy and putting Texans to work. She cited several examples of energy-related opportunities in various areas of the state including: a \$2.2 million project in Travis County to retrofit the HVAC system at an executive office building; \$12.9 million in projects in Bexar County that include air conditioner controls on several government buildings, building lighting upgrades, roof and solar hot water system replacements and building solar panel retrofits; \$6.7 million in projects in the Fort Worth that include lighting improvements at city parking facilities, libraries and community centers; more than \$3.1 million in projects in the Houston area that include library HVAC replacement in League City, street light replacement with LED lighting in Pearland and support construction of the North Bayou Central Plant in Harris County.

The bottom line, said Giles, is that the billions of dollars headed to local communities are translating into a myriad of contracting opportunities for vendors and service providers of all types and sizes.

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***About Strategic Partnerships, Inc.:***

SPI ([www.spartnerships.com](http://www.spartnerships.com)) is a government procurement and national research firm founded in 1994 in Austin, Texas. Its staff of consultants, researchers and budget analysts are all former government executives who work in the area of government procurement.