

NEWS RELEASE



RACINE COUNTY
Office of the County Executive
WILLIAM L. MCREYNOLDS

730 Wisconsin Avenue
Racine, WI 53403
262-636-3273
fax: 262-636-3549
William.McReynolds@goRacine.org

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CONTACT: Geoff Greiveldinger
(262) 636-3120
Geoff.Greiveldinger@goRacine.org

RACINE COUNTY EXECUTIVE DISCUSSES COUNTY'S RECOVERY ACT EXPERIENCE ON WASHINGTON, DC PANEL

Racine – On June 15, 2009, Racine County Executive Bill McReynolds participated in a panel of experts from the private sector and from all levels of government, on implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). McReynolds discussed Racine County's experience with the ARRA and its plans for using ARRA funds, including the county's Summer Youth Employment and Training Program. The panel was part of a special ARRA-focused session held in conjunction with the 20th Energy Efficiency Forum.

In his remarks, McReynolds stressed that ARRA funds should be used only for projects that will produce measurable benefits for the community, and that they should not force the local community to bear additional costs either up front or after the federal funding ends. He pointed to the Summer Youth Program, which uses Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds, as a great example of a communitywide collaborative effort that promises to yield long-term benefits. McReynolds also noted his plans to use other WIA stimulus funds to employ displaced workers who would supervise eligible jail inmates in clean-up projects on the Fox and Root Rivers.

In addition to private sector representation, McReynolds was joined on the panel by a senior official from the U.S. General Services Administration, the Executive Director of the National Association of State Energy Officials, the Executive Assistant to the Wisconsin Secretary of Administration, and the superintendent of a small North Carolina school district.

The Energy Efficiency Forum seeks to promote an energy efficiency ethic through the presentation of national and worldwide views on energy efficiency and the resulting impact on the environment, national security and economic growth.

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