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E-Newsletter of the Montana Association of Community Development Extension Professionals

February 2010

President's Corner

Many thanks to MACDEP members for renewing their membership. We have 16 members this year and look forward to new initiatives through our new MACDEP program development subcommittee. Stay tuned for more info.

-Paul Lachapelle
MACDEP President

Upcoming Events

[MSU Student Leadership Forum "Emotional Intelligence - Leading From The Heart"](#)

February 2, 7 PM, MSU Strand Union, Bozeman. This forum will focus on the topic of Emotional Intelligence. Bonnie Sachatello-Sawyer, director of Hopa Mountain will speak on "Leading from the Heart." The presentation will focus on the fundamentals of Emotional Intelligence, based on the work of Daniel Goleman, and the importance of leading from the heart as well as the head - recognizing that good leadership embodies more than aggression and strategy.

[Serve Montana Symposium](#)
February 10-11, Red Lion Colonial

MACDEP Happenings/Member News

[Local Government Extension Training \(LGET\) Web conference Feb. 24](#)

Several MACDEP members are part of a new national initiative to promote collaboration and information exchange among Extension personnel at all levels whose programming includes research, training, and technical assistance related to local government. Look [here](#) for more info, including details on the upcoming quarterly web conference.

New Reports/Resources

[New Housing Increases Fastest in the Exurbs](#)

The map below shows the change in the number of housing units in every rural and exurban county. Green counties had the largest increase in the number of dwellings; red counties had the largest decline. Coastal counties gained the most new rural housing between 2000 and 2008. But for the real growth in the housing stock outside the cities, look to the exurbs. The Census report for Montana housing is most certainly misleading. Contrary to what the map shows, Montana did not suffer a wholesale loss of housing. The map correctly reports the official Census findings. But there is a flaw in the Bureau's methods when it comes to that state. The Census bureau relies on a number of components to track the number of housing units, including building permits. Many Montana cities do require permits and they are counted by the Census. Rural counties, however, do not generally require building permits, so their housing is undercounted.

Hotel, Helena. The Governor's Office of Community Service is sponsoring this event which focuses on meeting critical community needs together through national service and volunteerism. [Registration](#) is now available.

[Montana Ambassador Annual Conference - Montana's Recovering Economy: Where Do We Go From Here?](#)

February 25-26, 10:30 AM, Holiday Inn, Great Falls. The [conference agenda](#) and [registration](#) are available now online.

[The 'Next' Economy: A Statewide Public Discussion On Jobs And Innovation](#)

April 5-6, 8:00 AM, The Grantree Inn, Bozeman. The Burton K. Wheeler Center at Montana State University announces our Spring Conference: "The 'Next' Economy: A Statewide Public Discussion on Jobs and Innovation" More information coming soon. Registration is open, please join us!

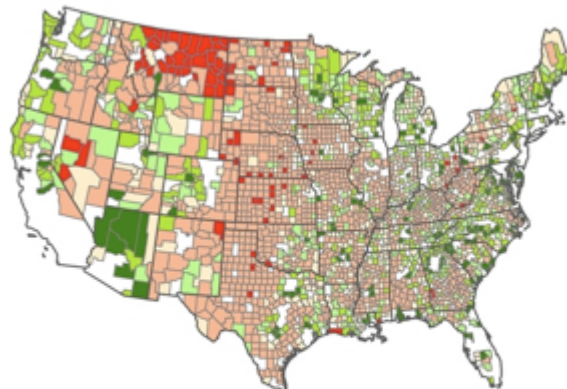
[Council Of Development Finance Agencies' 2010 Annual Development Finance Summit](#)

May 10-13, 8:00 AM, Portland, Oregon. The program for CDFA's 2010 Annual Development Finance Summit in Portland, Oregon is now available. This year's Summit will explore dozens of development finance topics, best practices, industry trends through three different tracks: Financing Continuum, Sustainable Financing Strategies, and Recommended Practices.

[SAVE THE DATE! Montana Main Street Conference 2009](#)

"Revitalizing Our Downtowns" September 28-29, 8:00 AM, Best

Rural Housing Growth in the 2000s



Change in Rural Housing Units: 2000 to 2008



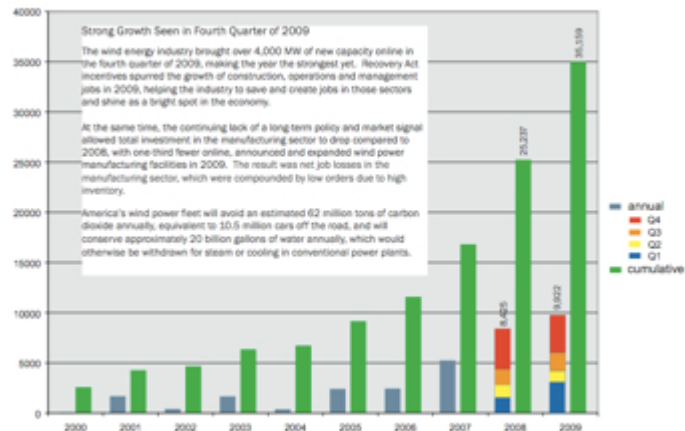
* See text of story for likely inaccuracies in Montana housing numbers.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

[Report: Wind-Generated Power Grew 39% in 2009](#)

After a dramatic gain in 2009 in wind-generated power, the United States is closing in on getting 2 percent of its power from wind. As reported in the New York Times, the American Wind Energy Association released its [annual report](#), which states the amount of capacity added last year, 9,900 megawatts, was the largest on record, and was 18 percent above the capacity added in 2008, also a banner year. Featured in the report, the graphics below show the U.S.'s Annual and Cumulative Wind Power Installation and Cumulative Wind Capacity by State.

U.S. Annual and Cumulative Wind Power Installations



Western Great Northern Hotel, Helena. Healthy, vibrant downtowns can help recruit new residents, businesses, and tourists, and can help keep the people who already live and work there. Main Street helps communities strengthen their historic downtowns by focusing on organization, design, promotions, and economic development.

Grant/Award Opportunities

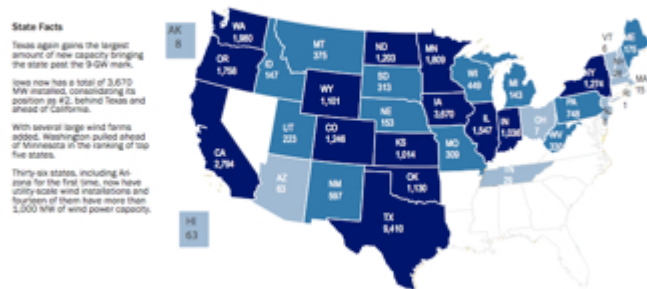
[Home Depot Building Healthy Communities Grant Program](#)

The Home Depot Building Healthy Communities Grant Program provides support to nonprofit organizations and agencies using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their communities. Grants support community improvement projects for up to \$2,500 in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools or materials. The application deadlines for 2010 are March 1, July 1, and November 1.

[American Humane Association: Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant Program](#)

The Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant program, administered by the American Humane Association, provides support for local animal shelter expansion or improvements nationwide. Grants, which range up to \$4,000, can only be used for animal environment enrichment, equipment that directly impacts the welfare of animals in the shelter, construction, or capital improvements. Organizations and agencies must be current members of American Humane Association at the Agency Member level. Applications will be accepted

Cumulative Wind Capacity by State



[Ranking the Entrepreneurial States: South Dakota Down to DC](#)

South Dakota was recently named the most entrepreneur friendly state in the Small Business Survival put out each year by the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. Montana ranked 31st. The 2009 edition again ranks the policy environment of all 50 states plus the District of Columbia - which again finished last. The fourteenth annual index examines 36 major government-imposed or government-related costs impacting small businesses and entrepreneurs - with a heavy emphasis on various tax rates (e.g. personal, corporate, capital gains, property, sales) and regulatory costs.

Small Business Survival Index 2009: State Rankings*
(Ranked from the Friendliest to the Least Friendly Policy Environments for Entrepreneurship)

Rank	State	SBSI	Rank	State	SBSI
1	South Dakota	25.693	26	Kansas	57.813
2	Nevada	31.348	27	Pennsylvania	57.847
3	Texas	32.082	28	New Mexico	58.101
4	Wyoming	37.069	29	Louisiana	58.111
5	Washington	42.955	30	Wisconsin	58.800
6	Florida	43.284	31	Montana	59.041
7	South Carolina	48.001	32	Idaho	61.705
8	Colorado	48.250	33	New Hampshire	61.995
9	Alabama	48.823	34	Nebraska	62.143
10	Virginia	50.843	35	Delaware	62.775
11	Ohio	51.250	36	West Virginia	63.689
12	Alaska	51.554	37	Maryland	64.342
13	Tennessee	51.855	38	Oregon	65.179
14	Utah	52.404	39	North Carolina	65.497
15	Indiana	52.602	40	Connecticut	66.627
16	Arizona	52.803	41	Iowa	67.485
17	North Dakota	53.044	42	Hawaii	68.454
18	Missouri	53.277	43	Minnesota	72.149
19	Mississippi	53.459	44	Massachusetts	72.515
20	Georgia	53.781	45	Rhode Island	73.339
21	Oklahoma	53.868	46	Maine	74.699
22	Kentucky	54.877	47	Vermont	75.717
23	Michigan	55.383	48	New York	76.940
24	Illinois	55.983	49	California	77.749
25	Arkansas	56.006	50	New Jersey	84.730
			51	Dist. of Columbia	84.795

* (Please note that the District of Columbia was not included in the studies on the states' liability systems, eminent domain legislation and highway cost efficiency as D.C.'s last place score actually should be even lower.)

[Family Can Keep Young Graduates Closer to Home](#)

Who moves? Young college graduates are more likely to move to a new state if they made good grades or attended top ranked colleges. Those who stay enjoy their spare time and want to live near family. Rural areas have been hit hard by outmigration. So the reasons for migration are of particular interest to

between January 1 and February 28, 2010.

[TSEP Construction Grant Applications are due April 16, 2010](#)

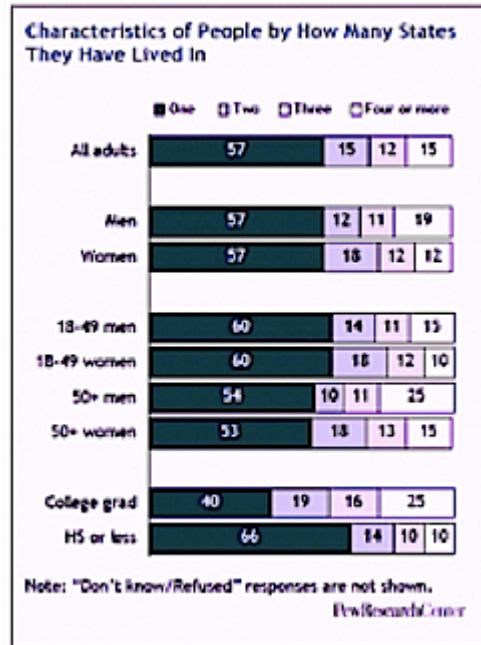
The Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) Application Guidelines provide the information needed to apply for a TSEP grant in 2010. The above link will take you to the draft guidelines, and the notice of public hearing on proposed adoption that was published in the Montana Administrative Register on January 14, 2010.

[Department of Commerce Accepting Proposals](#)

The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology is accepting proposals for funding. Proposals are due March 1, 2010. The Request for Proposals can be found on the [MBRCT website](#).

[New Grant Opportunities](#) have been added to the MSU Extension Website.

those living there, per the Daily Yonder. Rural communities, therefore, should take note of a study coming out of the Small Business Administration that traces the movements of young college graduates. The figure below shows some trends in migration by age and level of education.



[NTIA's BroadbandMatch Launches Website](#)
[National Telecommunications and Information Administration](#) (NTIA) at the Department of Commerce, and the USDA's [Rural Utilities Service](#) launched [BroadbandMatch](#), an online database-driven tool for facilitating collaboration and productive partnerships among applicants for Recovery Act broadband initiatives. The tool is part of a partnership with USDA's Rural Utilities Service and the White House Open Government Initiative to bring small and economically disadvantaged businesses and other nontraditional companies into partnerships with large enterprises that have resources to create strong, creative grant proposals to connect the unserved and underserved populations across the country.

Community Development "In the News"

[Rural Areas Win More Than \\$309 Million in Broadband Stimulus Grants](#)

Most of the 14 grants went to last-mile projects, the primary stimulus focus of the RUS.

Government Technology; Jan. 28

[Montana Alberta Tie Line May Foster Wind Farms](#)

With calls for more renewable energy increasing, new plain-looking pole-and-wire projects such as MATL are sprouting up in anticipation of the construction of more eye-catching wind farms. Billings Gazette; Jan. 28

[Is Biomass the Brave New World of Energy?](#)

It was an idea hatched in algae. Now its creators believe it could grow into a better way to power the West, and possibly beyond. Flathead Beacon; Jan. 26

[Ravalli County Entrepreneurship Center Officially Opens](#)

Officials, supporters and clients turned out last week to mark the occasion with speeches, tours and snacks. Opening of the \$3.4 million center marks the end of a multi-year effort to bring a small business incubator to the county. Ravalli Republic; Jan. 26

[Solar Shingles See the Light of Day](#)

The solar shingles will cost 30 to 40 percent less than other solar-embedded building materials and 10 percent less than the combined costs of conventional roofing materials and rack-mounted solar panels, according to company officials. Technology Review, Jan. 20

[Conservation Easements on the Rise](#)

This legal device shows that profit and protection of natural resources can go hand in hand. Miller McCune; Jan. 18

[MATL Could Unleash Torrent of Wind Projects in Montana](#)

This project is part of more than \$2 billion in proposed transmission projects in Montana that could progress this year, with the lines a direct response to demands from wind developers who are banking on the lines to ship power from the boondocks to big cities. Great Falls Tribune, Jan. 17.

[Montana Landowners Band Together on Community Wind-Power Project](#)

About 30 landowners in Montana's Judith Gap, Golden Valley, Fergus and Wheatland counties are working with Minnesota-based National Wind on a community-based wind-power project. Billings Gazette ; Jan. 16

[The World's Most Bike-Friendly Cities](#)

AskMen.com has released a list of the world's top ten bike-friendly cities. Portland, Oregon is the one U.S. city to make the list. AskMen.com; Jan. 15

[Broadband Funding: Yes, in Your Backyard](#)

Rural communities intent on providing broadband networks can't wait for help; they have to look inward. Downhome investors are making IT advancement real. Daily Yonder; Jan. 13

[The Fittest Cities in America](#)

Travel + Leisure has released its list of America's "fittest" cities. Travel + Leisure; Jan. 13

[2000 - 2009: The Decade in Planning](#)

Planetizen's choice of the most significant stories in the realm of urban planning, design and development of the "aughts" (2000-2009). Planetizen; Jan. 11

[Why Americans Are Moving Less](#)

The latest Census data indicates that Americans are moving less than they used to. The New York Times asks a group of experts in demographics, sociology and urban issues why. New York Times; Jan. 12

[Small Farming: It Takes A Village](#)

Local food and small farming are part of a growing food trend in the U.S. But, as Steph Larsen writes, the trend is going to need more infrastructure down the supply chain to sustain itself. Grist; Jan. 7

[Six States to Develop Comprehensive Action Plans to Improve Energy Efficiency of Existing Buildings](#)

These measures will be used to help states design larger-scale building retrofit programs that lead to lower energy use, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the creation of new jobs. NGA, Jan. 5

[Macy's Closing: What Next for Missoula?](#)

Macy's Inc. announced this morning that it will be closing its Missoula store, an economic and historic touchstone for the downtown district. New West; Jan. 5



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