

ener-G-save Participates in Many Green Communities!



Trent Guihan, ener-G-save's Spring semester intern (front and center), attends a presentation by Senator Ben Downing (standing behind Trent) on the topic of Green Jobs and the Green Communities Act, Wednesday February 25th.

As we all know, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act "stimulus package" and its ultimate impact on jobs and energy efficiency efforts in Western Mass is a moving target. We heard this week from Senator Stan Rosenberg that \$125 Million of the \$5B allocated to the Department of Energy will reach Massachusetts, through the current Weatherization Assistance Program. This program will hire 25-30 new auditors with construction and HVAC experience and train them in the next **60 days**. The Department of Housing and Community Development also estimates nearly doubling the number of private contractors they work with to do new construction and rehab work with each agency tasked with recruiting 3 additional contractors (that equals 9 new contractors in Western Mass).

To put this in perspective, there are approximately 17 or 18 contractors in Western Mass dividing their time between this weatherization program (low income housing), the MassSAVE program, non low-income existing home energy efficiency, and new construction. ener-G-save is working to support these contractors and help them find out about any and all resources available.

And, on another exciting note, we have been working with the students at the Renaissance magnet school in Springfield during their trimester study on energy efficiency. It will conclude with a report delivered to Mayor Domenic Sarno recommending significant energy efficiency measures to be implemented at 4 of the 48 schools in Springfield. ener-G-save is working with WGBY on the creation of a 30-minute feature program about this project and the students' work which may air in April! Stay tuned for more details.

To register with ener-G-save and get more information about making your home more energy efficiency, visit www.ener-g-save.org/index-3a