

Bellingham Technical College, Port, receive state grants for energy cost saving projects



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Ten higher education and 20 local governments across the state will be receiving grant money from the state in order to create jobs and energy cost savings projects, the Washington State Department of Commerce announced.

The state will be giving out \$11 million worth of grants, and Bellingham Technical College and the Port of Bellingham will both be receiving a portion of that money.

Bellingham Tech will receive \$153,241 and the Port of Bellingham will receive \$499,176.

The money is designed to be used for construction projects that will create an estimated 400 jobs for Washington State residents. The total cost for the projects is almost \$51 million, including more than \$36 million in non-state funding.

“Creating jobs in the construction industry is key to keeping our economic recovery going,” said Gov. Chris Gregoire. “These grants put people to work. Making our higher education facilities and local governments more energy efficient helps stretch their already tight budgets.”

The colleges will be using their money to help them become more energy efficient, which will create new jobs and reduce energy costs, which will in turn help the colleges keep their operating budgets low and hopefully tuition rates too.