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## Ideas for Economy Heard

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Brainstorming on ways to pump up Santa Fe's water conservation and renewable energy industries may result in an incubator-type center at Santa Fe Community College, members of the city's committee on economic development heard last week.

That's just one of several ideas batted around by folks implementing the city's latest economic development plan, which highlights the city's various economies, including the local focus on water-saving methods and clean energy technology.

In fact, the plan calls for making Santa Fe the "Water Conservation and Clean Energy Capital of the U.S."

This is in addition to a proposal by Economic Development Review Committee member Alex Pattakos to make Santa Fe's international catch phrase "Santa Fe, the Center of Creativity."

Talks are under way with SFCC President Jim McLaughlin for 10,000 square feet at the college for a technology development center. The center would provide bench space to test new products or refinement of older ones, city senior economic development planner Craig Fiels told the committee last week.

Of course, nothing is written in stone yet.

And while it may end up looking like a business-type incubator, it won't end up with the incubator name. Members of the committee want to maintain their respect for the Santa Fe Business Incubator.

The college has the right to maintain its own power supply system, Fiels said, which offers an opportunity for all kinds of innovation, including options such as solar or bio-mass energy sources.

Meanwhile, four requests for proposals have been advertised related to the economic plan's implementation, including coordination of workforce development.

Santa Fe Economic Development Inc., the nonprofit spun from a previous economic development plan and the Chamber of Commerce, plans to vie for that contract, said Carla Gonzales, SFEDI's newly hired workforce development coordinator.

A second RFP calls for creation of a community box office to provide some one-stop shopping for performance arts tickets.

There are also calls for proposals to create a nonprofit arts and culture development organization to guide "cultural economic development" throughout Santa Fe, and to create an Internet portal for arts and culture. Presumably, if Pattakos' proposal to make Santa Fe the center of the creative universe has any legs, the Internet portal is one of the places where you and the rest of the globe will read all about it.

The RFPs are evidence that the city's embrace of the AngelouEconomics Inc. economic development plan unveiled earlier this year is still pretty passionate.

Bioreason Inc. found a home recently at the aforementioned existing incubator off of Airport Road. The company's software is designed to assist pharmaceutical companies in their drug discovery process. The company is the incubator's 43rd client.

The company has five employees and 30 clients worldwide. It's run by Andrew DePristo, president and CEO. Check Bioreason at <http://www.bioreason.com/>