

# The Program "Sustainable Development of Model Communities on a Municipal Level in Russia" Project Complex "Barguzin"

Grant amount \$75,302 Total cost of project complex \$117,902 Grantee contribution \$42,600

Barguzinsky Raion  
 Republic of Buryatia



Population: 26, 900



This gas-filling tank vessel was acquired under the project for filling automobiles at the World Heritage Site on the coast of Lake Baikal



Project Coordinator V. Butorova conducts a seminar for local residents devoted to contests of social projects

## Problems of the Municipality Addressed by the Project Complex:

- A socio-economic crisis on Lake Baikal Coast due to the disruption of local economic ties and limitations imposed on economic activities in this area in connection with its status of a UNESCO World Heritage Site; poachery and unemployment.
- A need to work out a community development strategy targeted toward energy-efficiency, environmental pollution reduction, and solving social issues.
- Pollution and deterioration of the natural environment in the area around Lake Baikal.
- Lack of mechanisms for reinvesting energy savings and financing social programs.

## Projects Implemented in 2005-2006:

1. Gas Instead of Gasoline. Construction of a Gas-Filling Station for Reequipping Motor Vehicles
2. Waste Wood Instead of Coal. Transfer of Coal-Burning Boilers in Schools and Community Centers to the Use of Alternative Fuel (Wood Waste)
3. Support to Socially Deprived and Low-Income Citizens (Pensioners and the Disabled: So as the Poor Do Not Become Poorer)
4. Local Community Fund in Barguzin Raion: Reinvesting Savings in Social Projects

## Key Project Results Promoting Community Development:

- Jointly with the municipal government, a 2006-2008 Barguzinsky Raion Energy-Efficiency Plan has been developed. A Local Community Fund was created for reinvesting energy savings in social projects in Barguzinsky Raion. Nearly 350,000 rubles of grant funds were reinvested.
- Energy-efficiency projects allowed to reduce power consumption by 360,000 kWh and coal consumption by 1,015 t.
- A pilot and general contests of social projects were successfully carried out with a budget of 100,000 rubles that were donated by businesses and the municipal government; and grants were awarded for setting up school vocational training shops and a small stadium at the local kindergarten and a small private mineralogical museum; and converting automobiles owned by pensioners and other socially unprotected citizens from the use of gasoline to the use of natural gas.
- Project activities helped to improve the quality of utilities services in three schools and at the Community Center of the raion capital; and to reduce by 20% the rate of respiratory diseases among the pupils of these schools. The project replaced coal-burning and electric boilers with gas-generating ones.
- Fourteen new jobs were created. Project results were broadly covered in the mass media.