



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

# News Release

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*Minneapolis City Goals:* A Safe Place to Call Home □ Jobs & Economic Vitality □ Eco-Focused □  
Livable Communities, Healthy Lives □ Many People, One Minneapolis □ A City That Works

## Minneapolis homeowners are saving money and energy through stimulus funded program

*Residents can attend a workshop and sign up for a home energy efficiency visit*

July 29, 2011 (MINNEAPOLIS) – Beginning August 1, Minneapolis homeowners will have the opportunity to save money and use less energy through the Community Energy Services program. The program offers free educational workshops to teach homeowners how to lower their energy use and save money as well as an opportunity to sign up for a home visit. Residents pay \$30 for a customized home energy visit by energy experts who conduct a home energy visit in the resident's home to:

- Identify a home's unique energy needs, provide a blower door test to measure air leaks;
- Help homeowners install materials in the home such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, programmable thermostat, , low-flow showerhead, faucet aerators, gasket seals, pipe wrap and water heater thermometers;

"The home visit was great! It was great to learn about all the specific improvements that were being made and how to implement some changes myself," said a **resident from the Longfellow neighborhood** who participated in the program. "The staff was great about answering questions and involving me in the process."

The program also provides:

- A personalized energy use inventory for the past 12 months and feedback for the next 12 months to show homeowners how these low-cost/no-cost measures resulted in decreased energy use, as well as allowing participants to compare their energy use to that of similar homes;
- Access to 0% energy financing, incentives, and rebates for those wishing to complete larger projects.

“Community Energy Services helps residents save money, cuts carbon emissions, and creates more good jobs,” said **Mayor R.T. Rybak**. “Thanks to President Obama and to the federal officials who supported the Recovery Act, Community Energy Services is a win for everyone.”

“It’s terrific that all neighborhoods in the 10<sup>th</sup> ward participated in the pilot program,” said **City Council Member Meg Tuthill** (Ward 10). “What a great opportunity for Minneapolis residents to save money and save energy at the same time—and, it’s easy!”

The Community Energy Savings program is available for owner-occupied, one to four unit properties in the city of Minneapolis. Scholarships are available for qualified participants. For information on upcoming workshops in your neighborhood, contact Ashley Robertson at 612-335-5869 or [arobertson@mncee.org](mailto:arobertson@mncee.org) or visit [www.mnces.org](http://www.mnces.org).

The program is a collaboration with the City of Minneapolis and the Center for Energy and Environment. The pilot program has already reached 59 neighborhoods and over 4,000 homeowners. The goal is to reach 6,000 total homeowners, saving \$762,000 in energy costs annually and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 5,000 tons per year. The program also creates 34 new jobs. The program is funded, in part, by a \$705,000 grant the City received from the Department of Energy through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The City of Minneapolis has an eco-focused goal, embracing sustainability to support the city’s quality of life now and in the future. For information on Minneapolis’ sustainability initiatives, visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability).

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