



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

City Celebrates 2,000th Home Energy Visit to Identify Ways to Cut Usage and Save Money

Program funded by federal stimulus dollars helps Minneapolis homeowners save \$762,000 annually on energy bills while creating jobs and reducing CO₂ emissions

October 14, 2010 (MINNEAPOLIS) – Mayor R.T. Rybak, Council Member John Quincy (Ward 11), and representatives from the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) celebrated the 2,000th home energy savings visit today at the home of Mike and Breanne Rothstein, homeowners who took advantage of the Community Energy Services program, a collaboration with the City and Center for Energy and CEE. The program puts Minneapolis homeowners on a comprehensive path to achieving energy savings and is funded, in part, by a grant of \$705,000 the City received from the Department of Energy through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. A pilot program was launched last year reaching 28 neighborhoods and 2,000 houses. The grant is being used to expand this program to all neighborhoods in Minneapolis, reaching a total of 6,000 homeowners. This program translates to an energy savings of \$762,000 annually, a CO₂ emissions reduction of more than 5,000 tons per year, and 34 new jobs.

“The Recovery Act continues to come through for Minneapolis residents, and I encourage all of them to take advantage of these easy, low-cost, home energy audits,” said Mayor R.T. Rybak. “The citywide

expansion of Community Energy Savings will help even more people save money, help our city cut down on more carbon emissions, and help create more good jobs. Thanks to President Obama and to the federal officials who supported the Recovery Act, Community Energy Savings is a win for everyone.”

“We were excited to find out about the Community Energy Services program through CEE and the Windom Community. What a great way to use federal stimulus and state dollars during the tough economy—to put money back in the pockets of residents and be environmentally-minded by incorporating simple, energy-saving techniques,” Rothstein stated during her home visit Thursday.

The Community Energy Services program offers:

- Free educational workshops to teach homeowners how to lower their energy use and save money;
- Materials, which may include low flow showerheads, setback thermostat, compact fluorescent light bulbs, gasket seals, faucet aerators, pipe insulation to help participants save now;
- Customized home energy visit from qualified professionals who will identify additional ways for residents to save energy in their homes, including a blower door test;
- 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 financing, incentives, and rebates for those wishing to complete larger weatherization projects.

Two qualified professionals conduct the energy audit in the resident’s home. They identify a home’s unique energy needs, provide a blower door test to measure air leaks, and help homeowners install materials in the home such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, programmable thermostat, attic door weather-stripping, low-flow showerhead, gasket seals, pipe wrap and water heater thermometers.

“I do not know of other cities in Minnesota, or elsewhere in the country, that are offering money savings programs like this one available to residents,” said Council Member John Quincy (Ward 11).

“The program will help create a healthier, more sustainable community and, by cutting costs, homeownership becomes more affordable,” he added.

For information on upcoming workshops in your neighborhood, contact Kyle Boehm at 612-219-7334 or kboehm@mncee.org or visit www.mncs.org.

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