



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Clean Energy Coalition Launches Rebuild Ypsilanti Program Improving Energy Efficiency for Commercial Buildings in Ypsilanti**

**YPSILANTI, MI** – Clean Energy Coalition (CEC), an Ypsilanti-based nonprofit organization promoting clean energy technologies, has launched Rebuild Ypsilanti, a project aimed to reduce energy costs by assisting in energy efficiency improvements for commercial buildings within the Ypsilanti community. Commercial buildings include: Offices, Retail, Restaurants, Multifamily Residential, and more.

“Clean Energy Coalition is based in Ypsilanti. We’re extremely excited to work right here in the community towards energy efficiency practices that will benefit building owners and renters financially because of the continuous increase in energy prices,” said Sean Reed, CEC’s Executive Director.

Demand for natural gas is projected to increase this year by 8.1 percent from 2007.<sup>i</sup> With increased demand comes increased prices. Over a 6-month period beginning in January 2008, natural gas prices for the commercial sector rose 30 percent.<sup>ii</sup> Ypsilanti has 997 businesses and the quickest increase in natural gas demand is anticipated for the business district.<sup>iii</sup>

Savings from energy efficiency improvements will help to offset these increases. For example, the average commercial building can save up to 40 percent on their lighting costs by switching to T8 fluorescent lights from older T12 lights.<sup>iv</sup> By installing a programmable thermostat to automatically set back during unoccupied hours, buildings can decrease energy use up to 16 percent.<sup>v</sup> Many of these energy efficiency measures offer of a return on investment (ROI) of less than 5 years, when comparing the cost of the improvement to the decreased energy costs.

For owners and renters of commercial buildings in Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township, Rebuild Ypsilanti Program will provide:

- \* Free and Reduced Cost Energy Audits
- \* Technical Guides
- \* Print and Electronic Publications
- \* Financial Strategies for Energy Projects
- \* National, Regional, and Local Workshops & Meetings
- \* Key Program News
- \* Grant Writing Assistance

These resources will assist program participants in improving the energy efficiency of their facilities, which will not only reduce operating costs, but also improve comfort and health for building occupants and the environment by preventing pollution.

(more)

Freeing up this money from decreased energy usage will serve the other budget areas of participants, feeding local economies and the community. The Rebuild Ypsilanti program is part of a greater emphasis on energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy independence on the local, state and national levels. The program is part of the Rebuild Michigan program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and administered by the State of Michigan Energy Office (Department of Labor and Economic Growth), which promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy development and use with Michigan residents, businesses and public institutions. Local officials, businesses and organizations are incredibly enthusiastic about the launch of the program: "Ypsilanti City Council is committed to clean energy solutions. For example, solar panels will be installed on the south wall of City Hall. I look forward to the energy saving ideas generated from the Rebuild Ypsilanti project," said Paul T. Schreiber, Mayor of Ypsilanti.

The general public is invited to the Rebuild Ypsilanti Kick-off meeting held from 10AM – 12PM on January 9, 2009 at the Ypsilanti District Library (5577 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, (734) 482-4110, [www.ypsilibrary.org](http://www.ypsilibrary.org)). This kickoff meeting will include information about the benefits of energy efficiency as well as financing options, grant opportunities, and tax incentives for implementing improvements. (RSVP required, as space is limited).

To get involved in Rebuild Ypsilanti or to RSVP for the Kick-off meeting, please contact Greg Vendena at [greg@cec-mi.org](mailto:greg@cec-mi.org). For more details about the project, visit our website at [cec-mi.org](http://cec-mi.org).

Current committed stakeholders include entities such as Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce, Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority, City of Ypsilanti, Eastern Michigan University, Growing Hope, Jacobsen Daniels Associates, Ypsilanti Food Coop and Ypsilanti District Library. ***We are always looking for new partnerships!***

### **About The Clean Energy Coalition**

The CEC is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting clean energy technologies as a way to create healthier, energy independent communities. CEC implements, manages, and evaluates cost effective, market transformation projects and programs in the building and transportation sectors. For more information visit [www.cec-mi.org](http://www.cec-mi.org).

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#### Statistical Sources:

<sup>i</sup> State of Michigan Energy Office, Department of Labor and Economic Growth

<sup>ii</sup> Energy Information Administration

<sup>iii</sup> Energy Information Administration

<sup>iv</sup> State of Michigan Energy Office, Department of Labor and Economic Growth

<sup>v</sup> State of Michigan Energy Office, Department of Labor and Economic Growth