



**FOR RELEASE**

**Contact:** Jenny Oorbeck  
jenny@cec-mi.org  
888.818.0987 x713

**Clean Energy Coalition Deploys \$4.4 million Grant to Help Michigan's Cities of Promise Launch Self-Funding Energy-Saving Programs**

- Benton Harbor, Flint, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Muskegon Heights, Pontiac and Saginaw each receive grants of more than \$460,000
- Custom energy programs to be developed for each community, with the savings reinvested in new clean energy projects

**Ypsilanti, Mich., October 19, 2010** – The Clean Energy Coalition (CEC), a non-profit organization working with public and private partners to develop smart energy-saving strategies, announced today that it will be putting a \$4.4 million grant provided by the Michigan Public Service Commission to work in seven economically-challenged “Cities of Promise” throughout Michigan to design and implement ongoing clean energy programs.

The cities—Benton Harbor, Flint, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Muskegon Heights, Pontiac and Saginaw—are part of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority’s (MSHDA) Cities of Promise program, which applies resources and the expertise of statewide partners to restore urban neighborhoods and districts to their former attractiveness and vibrancy. The CEC will deploy more than \$460,000 in each city to cover the costs of energy efficiency and renewable energy installations to municipal facilities.

Each city will receive free technical resources provided by Clean Energy Communities, a CEC initiative. Resources include the development of an ongoing program supported by a revolving energy fund (REF) that accumulates savings and reinvests them in new clean energy projects. Each city’s REF will pay for an energy manager and invest in future energy projects. The more a city invests, the more it will save.

Clean Energy Communities has completed initial energy and financial analysis for the seven cities and is finishing program planning and building improvement recommendations.

The plan and recommendations are based on energy audits and investment scenarios evaluated using an innovative financial model, which uses incentive information and prevailing market and industry conditions to predict REF performance

“Clean energy makes communities better places to live and work, and can generate significant cost savings, too,” said Sean Reed, executive director of the CEC. “But even financially secure communities sometimes struggle to fund and manage long-term sustainability strategies. Our goal is to help each City of Promise develop a program, that generates more investments and savings over time.”

Among the many technologies that could be implemented are efficient lighting (both interior and exterior applications), high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, window and insulation upgrades, renewable energy installations and water conservation strategies.

Individual projects are expected to be under way in each city by early 2011; with additional grants expected to be announced in the coming months.

### **Michigan Cities of Promise**

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority’s Cities of Promise Initiative was created in 2006 to help with the redevelopment efforts in eight of Michigan’s most distressed urban cities by bringing forth various resources to assist in blight elimination, and work to increase community and economic development. These once thriving cities have all experienced the devastating effects of population decline, poverty, infrastructure challenges, and blight. The Cities of Promise program allows the state to engage in unprecedented partnerships with these cities to address their concerns and prioritize their needs using existing state resources.

### **Clean Energy Coalition and Clean Energy Communities**

Clean Energy Communities is an initiative of Clean Energy Coalition, which is dedicated to promoting clean energy technologies and innovations as a way to create healthier, energy independent communities. Since 2007, CEC has implemented, managed and evaluated cost effective, market transformation projects and programs in the building and transportation sectors valued at more than \$47 million. For more information, visit [cec-mi.org](http://cec-mi.org).

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