



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2010

Contact: Joshua Brugeman, Project Manager
Email: josh@cec-mi.org
Phone: 888.818.0987 x 708

Clean Energy Coalition Kicks-Off 2010 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, is kicking off its 2010 Rebuild Ypsilanti Program, a project aimed to reduce energy costs by assisting Ypsilanti commercial building owners with energy efficiency improvements. Commercial buildings include offices, retail space, restaurants, multifamily residential units, 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 help building owners reduce their operating costs and avoid the challenges of rising energy prices,” said Sean Reed, CEC’s Executive Director.

Getting Involved

The general public is invited to the 2010 Rebuild Ypsilanti meeting:

Increasing Your Energy Efficiency and Your Bottom Line

RSVP Required
April 29th, 10AM – 12PM
Ypsilanti District Library
5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
www.ypsilibrary.org

This meeting will include an update on Rebuild Ypsilanti program as well as expert speakers on energy efficiency, financing options, and financial incentive opportunities for energy conservation measures (RSVP required, as space is limited).

The Rebuild Ypsilanti program also provides complimentary energy audits to owners and renters of commercial buildings in Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township. If you are interested in receiving an audit, please complete an application online at cec-mi.org.

To get involved in Rebuild Ypsilanti or to RSVP for the Kick-off meeting, please contact Joshua Brugeman at josh@cec-mi.org. For more details about the project, visit our website at cec-mi.org.

Program Benefits

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
- * Reduced costs on energy efficiency products
- * Access to incentive and project management specialists

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.

Increasing Energy Costs and Potential Savings

Over the next five years, demand for natural gas and electricity are expected to increase by 4.36 percent and 8.29 percent respectively.ⁱ With increased demand comes increased prices. Electricity supplied to the Ypsilanti region through DTE has increased 13.1 percentⁱⁱ over the last year. For the businesses in Ypsilanti, rising energy prices have become a significant burden on their operating costs.

Energy efficiency improvements can result in substantial energy savings. For example, savings of \$.50 per square foot is readily achievable. Although the savings will vary significantly from building to building, a 100,000 sq. ft. commercial building could realize annual savings of \$50,000. Even simple solutions such as lighting and HVAC retrofits can generate noticeable results. It's possible to save up to 40 percent on lighting costs alone by switching to T8 fluorescent lights from older T12 lights.ⁱⁱⁱ Also, by installing a programmable thermostat to automatically set back during unoccupied hours, buildings can decrease energy use up to 16 percent.^{iv} Many of these energy efficiency measures offer a payback period of less than 5 years.

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 Energy, Labor, & 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 enthusiastic about the continuation of the program.

A variety of incentives are available to commercial building owners in Ypsilanti. The incentives include federal tax reductions and utility optimization funds that help offset the initial cost of equipment and shorten payback periods. The rebuild Ypsilanti program guides building owners through the process of leveraging all possible incentives.

Current committed stakeholders include 1st Step Referral Services, A3C Collaborative Architects, AWTEC, City of Ypsilanti, Corner Brewery, Cribley Drilling Co, Inc., Depot Town CDC, Detroit Regional Chapter US Green Building Council, Dragon's Hoard Accounting, Eagle's Net Laundry, Gross Electric, Growing Hope, Haab's Restaurant, Houdini's Cleaners and Laundryland, Impact Energy Management, Jacobsen/Daniels Associates, Kenco Energy Services, Manchester and Associates, Materials Unlimited, Michigan IR, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Riverside Manor Apartments, SecurAlarm Systems, Inc., SOS Community Services, Stadium Meadows Condominium Association, Vanston / O'Brien Inc., W. W. Grainger, Inc., Willow Building, Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce, Ypsilanti District Library, Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority, Ypsilanti Food Co-op. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a stakeholder. ***We are always looking for new partnerships!***

About The Clean Energy Coalition

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 cec-mi.org.

Sources:

ⁱ Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook

ⁱⁱ Michigan Public Service Commission, Comparison of Average Rates for MPSC-Regulated Electric Utilities in Michigan, January 2009 - January 2010.

ⁱⁱⁱ State of Michigan Energy Office, Department of Labor and Economic Growth

^{iv} State of Michigan Energy Office, Department of Labor and Economic Growth