



## **Ann Arbor Energy Office Leads City To Energy Efficient Future**

*City of Ann Arbor Wins MEEA's Inspiring Efficiency LEADERSHIP Award*

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance announced today that The City of Ann Arbor will receive an Inspiring Efficiency LEADERSHIP Award for its history and dedication to energy efficiency and sustainable energy use. Since 1985, the Ann Arbor Energy Office has managed projects and programs, developed information and resources and provided expert advice to help the city reduce its energy use and move toward a sustainable future. Energy Coordinator David Konkle and City Administrator Roger Fraser will be honored at the Inspiring Efficiency Awards Ceremony, being held at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, on January 10, 2008.

As a result of the Energy Office's programs, the city is realizing a net savings of \$33,000 per month (2006 dollars). "The Energy Office has been critical to directing the city's clean energy projects and to establishing the city as a national leader in energy efficiency," said City Administrator Roger Fraser. "We are thrilled to be recognized a leader on these issues."

Ann Arbor's innovative Municipal Energy Fund invests in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at city facilities. Since 1999 the Energy Fund has invested \$588,000 in these projects and saved the City of Ann Arbor over \$705,000 in energy savings alone. The Energy Office has also secured and managed over \$2,000,000 of grant monies to fund additional energy efficiency improvements and programs like Clean Cities that reduce gasoline and fuel use and Solar America Cities to develop solar energy. Through ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection program, the Energy Office also serves as the focal point of the City of Ann Arbor's climate protection efforts.

"The City of Ann Arbor is an example for cities around the Midwest," said Alecia Ward, President of MEEA. "For more than 20 years, they've demonstrated the lasting impacts of investing in efficiency and clean energy and have shown that it helps the bottom line."

"The total cost to the city since 1988 is estimated at \$2.9 million, including wages, benefits, project and program implementation, and other overhead and support costs," said David Konkle, Energy Coordinator. "This investment has yielded \$10.5 million in energy, labor, and purchasing savings, for a return of \$3.60 for every dollar spent on Energy Office personnel and programs. This remarkable financial benefit does not, however, include the demonstration potential, clean air, global warming mitigation, energy security, and economic development benefits."

The creation of the Ann Arbor Energy Office has allowed Ann Arbor to make more efforts toward their goals by applying for grants, releasing and reviewing bid requests for energy efficiency projects, maintaining an accurate profile of energy use and cost at all city facilities, negotiating energy purchases, participating in ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection and DOE Clean Cities, and providing education and outreach to local business and residents.

**Summary of MEEA's 2008 Inspiring Efficiency Award recipients, recognizing the Midwest's efficiency leaders:**

**Inspiring Efficiency EDUCATION Award**—Schools for Energy Efficiency for implementing a program to save energy and money by changing behavior throughout school districts through increasing energy awareness among operations staff, students, teachers, and administrators. The program is in 400 schools, resulting in average energy savings of 10-20% and avoiding \$9.2million in energy costs in its first four years.

**Inspiring Efficiency IMPACT Award**—Miracit Development Corporation for developing Green View Estates. The first "green" subdivision of the City of Columbus, Ohio, the site upholds rigorous environmental standards while producing affordable homes. Homes in the subdivision are 25 to 40% more efficient than standard homes, saving \$900 per year.

**Inspiring Efficiency MARKETING Award**—Rochester Public Utilities for developing a Commercial Communications Plan to maximize commercial customers' participation in efficiency programs.

**Inspiring Efficiency INNOVATION Award**—George Bialecki for founding Alternative Energy Builders, a corporation that builds energy efficient communities, and for founding Alternative Energy Living, a non-profit foundation focused on research and energy efficiency education.

**Inspiring Efficiency LEADERSHIP Award**—Minnesota: Senator D. Scott Dibble, Representative Jeremy Kalin, Sheldon Strom from Center for Energy and Environment, and Christy Brusven of the Department of Commerce for their coalition effort to lead the first, most comprehensive energy policy adoption in the Midwest.

**Inspiring Efficiency LEADERSHIP Award**—Illinois: Senator Don Harmon and Anne Pramagiorre from Commonwealth Edison for their leadership to gain adoption of the Affordable, Clean Energy Standard, creating a 2% efficiency standard for Illinois.

**Inspiring Efficiency CHAIRMAN'S Award**—Sara Ward: Retiring Director of the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Energy Efficiency, a founding and active member of the MEEA Board of Directors and stalwart supporter of energy efficiency and renewable energy policy in the Midwest.

Winners will be honored at MEEA's **Inspiring Efficiency Awards Ceremony**, being held at the **Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois**, on **January 10, 2008**. Please visit [www.mwalliance.org/awards](http://www.mwalliance.org/awards) or [www.mwalliance.org/conference](http://www.mwalliance.org/conference) for more information on the Midwest Energy Solutions Conference.