

(Ashtabula Star-Beacon, Jan. 7, 2011)

Communities Get NOPEC Funding

By MARK TODD - mtodd@starbeacon.com [Star Beacon](#) [The Star Beacon](#) Fri Jan 07, 2011, 09:00 AM EST

- CONNEAUT — The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council has handed out another \$229,000 to more Ashtabula County communities for a variety of energy-saving projects.

The grants are part of the \$16 million “Powering Our Communities” program launched by NOPEC and FirstEnergy Solutions as part of a partnership struck last year. Each of the 129 communities within the nine counties serviced by NOPEC are eligible for a share.

Ashtabula County’s latest recipients include:

- Austinburg Township — \$50,000 for energy-efficient improvements to the township hall, including a new heating system and windows
- Cherry Valley Township — \$17,600 for energy-efficient components, including insulation, for a new township garage
- Williamsfield Township — \$20,560 toward improvements at the township community center, including doors, windows and an energy-efficient air conditioning system
- Dorset Township — \$50,000 for energy upgrades to the community center and fire station
- North Kingsville — \$2,995 for a new heating system at village hall
- Roaming Shores — \$50,000 towards a new waste water lift system
- Saybrook Township — \$16,410 for lighting and air-conditioning improvements at the fire station
- Sheffield Township — \$22,390 for various upgrades at the town hall, including new windows

Grants are based on population, but each community is scheduled to receive at least \$50,000 from NOPEC. Some communities have already received a portion of their funding.

Communities have to submit their intended use for the money to NOPEC for approval before funds are disbursed.

Ashtabula County’s three cities — Ashtabula, Geneva and Conneaut — have not yet received their allocations. Conneaut plans to use its share, which could approach \$100,000, for lighting upgrades in municipal buildings.

NOPEC is a collection of communities that have banded to secure lower utility rates for residents via volume buying. Ron McVoy of North Kingsville, the county’s representative to the NOPEC board of directors, said in a statement the grants will benefit taxpayers by lowering utility bills.

“Since 2000, NOPEC has provided lower utility costs for northeast Ohio residents and businesses,” McVoy said in a statement. “These grants demonstrate that NOPEC is also encouraging energy efficiency as well.”