

# The Star Beacon; Ashtabula, Ohio

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## More communities receive energy grants from NOPEC

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### Star Beacon

— Several Ashtabula County communities are the latest to receive money for energy improvement projects from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council.

Included in the latest list, announced Thursday, is a \$111,000 grant for Conneaut. The money — not unexpected — makes Conneaut the first city among the county's three cities to receive funding.

Combined, some \$430,500 contained in 12 grants were handed out by NOPEC, the latest in a series of endowments. In addition to Conneaut, the latest recipients include:

- Ashtabula Township — \$40,458 for energy improvements to township buildings
- Colebrook Township — \$48,670 for energy-efficient doors, furnace and roof for township buildings
- Harpersfield Township — \$25,296 to install lights, windows and doors at township buildings
- Monroe Township — \$50,000 for energy upgrades at the township garage and meeting hall
- New Lyme Township — \$28,500 for improvements to township hall and another \$21,500 for a more efficient dump truck
- North Kingsville — \$3,582 to install new doors at the street department and \$2,883 for new doors at the village hall
- Rome Township — \$50,000 to create an energy-efficient garage
- Saybrook Township — \$7,140 for the fire department to replace overhead doors and install new hot water heater and heat drop-in at the fire hall
- Wayne Township — \$41,602 for energy upgrades to the town hall and fire hall

Conneaut plans to use its money on City Hall and other municipal buildings. Johnson Control, an engineering firm, recently unveiled an ambitious proposal that envisioned a lighting retrofit, heater/cooling work, window replacements and other buttoning-up projects. The price tag for the work included the NOPEC grant.

Council is still studying the proposal.

A partnership between NOPEC and FirstEnergy Solution resulted in \$16 million that will be handed out to NOPEC's 129 membership communities. Grants are based on population and began around \$50,000. Each successful applicant had to submit a plan detailing how the money would be spent.

In a statement, Ron McVoy of North Kingsville — Ashtabula County representative to the nine-county NOPEC board — said 90 percent of the energy upgrades are being performed by local contractors.