

# The Star Beacon; Ashtabula, Ohio

July 26, 2011

## More communities get NOPEC money

By *MARK TODD - mtodd@starbeacon.com*

### Star Beacon

— A \$120,000 grant for the city of Ashtabula topped the latest energy-improvement awards to local communities from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council.

Eleven communities recently received money from NOPEC, a non-profit aggregation of nine counties in northeast Ohio. Nearly \$16 million was made available to communities for energy-efficient projects via a program begun last year. Each application had to pass muster from NOPEC before approval was given, officials

Ashtabula will use its money to improve the heating/ventilation/air conditioning system at the Justice Center, according to a statement.

The latest round of grant to button up buildings and other energy-saving projects, according to a statement from NOPEC. led by a \$120,000 grant for the city of Ashtabula. Other recipients include:

- Denmark Township — \$50,000 for town hall and garage improvements including new energy efficient windows, doors and lighting as well as insulation
- Geneva — \$60,700 for a flex-fuel vehicle, more efficient lighting for city buildings and a new roof for the fire department
- Hartsgrove Township — \$47,100 for energy improvements at the fire department and township garage including new windows and insulation
- Kingsville Township — \$50,000 for improved lighting and insulation at the fire hall and lighting, insulation and heating improvements at the township garage
- North Kingsville — \$975 for ceiling fans at fire stations
- Orwell Township — \$24,363 to make the township hall more energy efficient
- Plymouth Township — \$50,000 to upgrade heating system and install insulation at the fire department/community building

- Sheffield Township — \$3,555 for energy-efficient doors
- Wayne Township — \$8,398 for energy upgrades to the town hall
- Williamsfield Township — \$5,015 for roof and insulation upgrades

Payments were based on population, officials have said. On average, no community that submitted an application received less than \$50,000.

“NOPEC’s grant program will make Ashtabula County more energy efficient, which means local governments will be spending fewer dollars on utility bills,” Ron McVoy, Ashtabula County’s representative on the NOPEC board, said in a statement. “NOPEC has invested significantly in energy conservation not only in Ashtabula County, but throughout northeast Ohio.”

Some communities are receiving money as projects are accepted instead of a lump sum payment, officials have said. An agreement between NOPEC and FirstEnergy Solutions created the Powering Our Communities program.