

NOPEC awards \$392,516 in grants to Geauga communities

Thursday, March 24, 2011

Staff Report

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) has awarded 13 energy conservation grants totaling \$392,516 to Geauga County communities to make energy efficient upgrades in public facilities.

Among the awards is a \$57,360 grant to the City of Chardon for help in building an energy-efficient, LEED-certified Heritage House community center.

The awards made to these Geauga communities are part of nearly \$16 million in Powering Our Communities grants that NOPEC will be distributing to its 129 member communities throughout the nine northeast Ohio counties it serves.

The grant money came from FirstEnergy Solutions as part of an agreement the utility struck with NOPEC earlier this year.

Gauga County Commissioner William Young, who serves as the county's representative on the NOPEC board of directors, said this round of grants furthers NOPEC's commitment to helping communities in northeast Ohio lower their energy costs.

"This grant program is allowing communities in Northeast Ohio to make upgrades for long-term sustainability and cost savings," said Young. "NOPEC is committed to partnering with its customers and helping them obtain the resources they need to make energy conservation and efficiency a reality for each community."

The following communities are among those in Geauga County to also receive NOPEC conservation grants:

- Auburn Township: Four grants totaling \$40,450 for several projects, including installation of energy-efficient windows and lighting for township buildings, and replacement of HVAC units.
- Bainbridge Township: \$54,420 for LED lighting upgrades at town hall and road department.
- Burton Village: \$50,000 for high-efficiency blowers at water treatment facility.
- Chester Township: \$42,136 to install LED lights in administration building, add water filtration system and switch to tankless water heaters.
- Middlefield Village: \$50,000 for first phase of replacing municipal water meters.
- Newbury Township: \$48,150 for upgrades to energy-efficient lights, insulation and

HVAC units in four township buildings.

- South Russell: Three grants totaling \$50,000 for village hall insulation and upgrading to high-efficiency HVAC units.