

Record-Courier

Portage communities get \$50,000 for energy upgrades

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December 8, 2010

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council has awarded five energy conservation grants that total \$150,000 to three communities in Portage County to make energy efficient upgrades in public facilities.

Among the grants awarded, Freedom Township received \$50,000 for multiple energy efficient improvements including new furnaces, windows, roofing and doors at the town hall and former church building.

The awards 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.

Portage County Engineer Mickey Marozzi, 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 providing our communities the resources to implement energy-saving capital improvements that will lower their costs," Marozzi said. "While NOPEC is working hard to bring low-cost energy to northeast Ohio, part of that mission includes encouraging conservation and energy efficiency through partnerships in the communities we serve."

- The following communities are among those in Portage County to also receive NOPEC conservation grants:
- Mantua Township -- \$50,000 to upgrade windows, doors and heating system in three township buildings including the town hall.
- Randolph Township -- \$50,000 to construct a new "green" township administration building

NOPEC is the largest non-profit government energy aggregation in the nation and uses no taxpayer dollars.

Since its inception in 2000, NOPEC has aggressively used bulk buying techniques to reduce energy costs by nearly \$100 million for northeast Ohio consumers -- helping to make our region more affordable and more economically competitive.