



PRESS release

**City of Akron 166 S. High Street Akron, Ohio 44308
(330)-375-2345 Fax:(330)- 375-2335
Web: www.akronohio.gov**

Date: 7/18/2011

Contact: Stephanie York, Director of Communications, syork@akronohio.gov

Akron Establishes Energy Demonstration Program

City to help homeowners reduce energy bills, water consumption, and carbon footprint.

The Mayor will ask council tonight to pass legislation that will establish an Energy Efficiency Demonstration Program to provide assistance to homeowners for interior upgrades to promote energy efficiency. The Demonstration Program will enable homeowners to make energy-saving improvements that will reduce their home energy bills and diminish the carbon footprint.

The Demonstration Program covers 81 structures immediately surrounding the Windemere Community Learning Center. All homeowners will receive an energy audit, CFL bulbs and a programmable thermostat. Homeowners who make up to 80% of area median income will be eligible for a forgivable loan to replace old, inefficient furnaces, and insufficient and/or poorly installed insulation. The loan can also be used to purchase and install duct sealing, low-flow showerheads, and weather stripping. The forgivable

loan is deferred for five years, and is forgiven at a rate of \$1,000 per year for five years as long as the owner resides in the home.

“The homes in this area are mostly owner-occupied and well maintained,” said Mayor Don Plusquellic. “They are older homes that will really benefit from these energy saving upgrades. The utility bill savings from these upgrades will allow homeowners to spend their hard earned money on other important family needs.”

end