



St. Louis County Launches New Program to Spur Energy Efficiency

Innovative Program Offers Low Interest Loans to Home Owners

St. Louis County, May 24, 2011 – A new loan program is launching tomorrow for residents of St. Louis County that offers low interest rates for home improvements that save on energy costs. Backed by St. Louis County, *St. Louis County SAVES™* provides \$10.4 million for residential energy efficiency loans ranging from \$2,500 to \$15,000.

The initiative is one of the first in the nation to use a unique bond structure for green community programs. Residents are able to enjoy unusually low rates due to the County's strong AAA bond rating. Charlie A. Dooley, County Executive, sees a direct benefit to local home owners, saying "As the nation strives to address rising energy costs, we are pleased to be on the forefront of providing residents an affordable way to improve the energy efficiency of their homes."

Local contractors will also benefit from the program as over 1,000 homes are expected to get upgrades as a part of the effort. "It's a great source of new business in the community" said Glenda Abney, Director of EarthWays Center, a division of Missouri Botanical Garden that will be providing contractor training, energy efficiency verification and marketing support for the program.

"Home owners can see immediate savings from simple improvements to their home that payback quickly in both comfort and lower energy bills" according to Anne Klein, the County's Director of Sustainability that is leading the program. Klein led a national search for a program administrator and selected Abundant Power Solutions of Charlotte, NC which has rolled out similar programs in Alabama and South Carolina. Abundant Power will facilitate the loans to participating property owners.

Media are invited to learn more about the program at a press event on tomorrow, May 24 which will include demonstrations of the typical techniques used to improve energy efficiency in St. Louis County homes. The event will take place at a home in Clayton, 37 Hillvale Drive, at 11:15am. For more details about the program, visit www.StLouisCountySaves.com.

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