



PRESS RELEASE

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**CHAMBERSBURG, PA MAKING HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY A PRIORITY WITH HELP FROM
THE WEST PENN POWER SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND**

GREENSBURG, PA – February 4, 2011 – The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF), has provided the Borough of Chambersburg, PA a grant to support the Borough's residential energy efficiency programs. Pennsylvania has some of the oldest housing stock in America and historic Chambersburg is no exception. The Borough quickly recognized the need to make homes more energy efficient, train their contractors to a higher standard and provide diagnostic energy audits to some of the borough's homes. Another component of their commitment is to reach out to the consumer and educate homeowners as to why this is important and what they can do in their own homes to reduce energy use and their utility bills.

The WPPSEF has provided the Borough with a \$40,000 grant to offset the expense of this municipality's residential energy efficiency program. This grant will support the program in several different ways:

- Provide a one-day training course (PA Home Performance 101) for Borough contractors to learn the basics of 'whole-house' performance and ENERGY STAR to reduce high energy bills, improve comfort and help to protect the environment.
- Perform diagnostic energy audits in selected Borough housing by certified and trained PA Home Energy Service Providers. These homes are part of the Borough of Chambersburg's housing rehabilitation program and the diagnostic energy audits will be used to pinpoint the energy inefficiencies of the homes that can be improved.
- Fund residential energy efficiency upgrades for the housing identified by the Borough as part of their housing rehabilitation program and for developing the use of ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to track energy and energy cost savings from these upgrades.
- Organize the *ENERGY AND YOU WORKSHOP* with the support of the Borough of Chambersburg and Wilson College in an effort of outreach to members of the community to educate the consumer about what they can do to make their homes more energy efficient. Seminars will be held and vendor displays will showcase the latest in technology at the Harry R. Brooks Complex for Science and Math on the campus of Wilson College, Saturday, February 12 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

"We are really hoping to make a difference in the community of Chambersburg," said Kathleen Newcomer, community development specialist for the Borough of Chambersburg. "We can make our contractors more aware, our homes more energy efficient and our homeowners warmer, more comfortable and with more money in their pockets from the savings."

This project and many other clean energy initiatives are made possible by the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund. This fund invests in the deployment of clean energy technologies throughout the West Penn Power service region in Pennsylvania, invests in the use of renewable and clean energy, energy efficiency and conservation and attracts sustainable energy businesses to the Commonwealth. Learn more about how this fund is helping to green Pennsylvania at www.wppsef.org.

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Energy audit program begins in Chambersburg

By MARCUS RAUHUT Staff writer

CHAMBERSBURG — Lois Strite and Elaine Hess knew there was air infiltrating their East King Street home, but they hoped to pinpoint exactly where it was coming in.

Their house was the first in the Borough of Chambersburg to undergo an energy audit through a grant from the West Power Sustainable Energy Fund.

The Borough of Chambersburg's housing rehabilitation program was awarded the grant earlier this year. It will fund a total of five home energy audits.

Jon Kautz of Boiling Springs-based Energy Smart Home Improvement completed the evaluation of the East King Street home on Thursday.

Kautz placed a giant fan in the front door, drawing air out of the home. This exposed areas in the home where there was air leakage.

He walked through the house with an infrared camera, showing Strite and Hess dark spots on the screen where cold air is coming in. He later measured the air pressure in different parts of the house and compared it with levels outside to confirm air infiltration.

The area where the foundation meets the wood framing is one of the most critical areas in the home, Kautz said. Older homes, in particular, can have a lot of air leaking in or out.

Hess said they have tried using draft blockers and other methods to keep air from coming into the 105-year-old house. On a recent windy day, the draft was so strong they could see the curtains moving.

"We were looking to cut our borough bill. With a fixed income, it's very difficult to pay for gas and electric," Hess said.

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After the home energy audits are completed, improvements will be made to the home, and the borough's rehabilitation program can compare the

utility bills.

The grant provides \$5,000 per home for an energy audit and recommended improvements. The Strite/Hess home was selected by the borough because it is on Chambersburg's housing rehabilitation waiting list.

A home energy audit typically costs about \$400 to \$500, and the remaining money can be used to fix up the house to keep air from coming in or going out.

"We're really hoping that the \$5,000 can make substantial improvements," said Kathleen Newcomer, community development specialist for the borough of Chambersburg.

The remaining four energy audits will be completed in 2011, Newcomer said.

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Looking for heat leaks: Jon Kautz uses a infrared device to... (Public Opinion/Markell DeLoatch)

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