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Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance Awarded Funding from PA Conservation Works Program

PITTSTON, PA, November 24, 2009 – The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance Seven County Traffic Signal Conversion Program has been awarded funding totaling \$982,800 from PA Conservation Works Program.

It's simple, converting existing traffic signals from incandescent lamps to LED's increases safety, saves energy and money. Traffic signals that use LED's consume 70-90 percent less energy than conventional traffic signals and LED's have an operating life from 5-10 years as compared to 1 year for an incandescent lamp.

If all traffic signals in America were converted to LED's, 3 billion kWh of electricity would be saved annually. The Traffic Signal Conversion Program is a key service under the Local Development District Network's Pennsylvania Energy Partnership which assists local governments in reducing energy consumption and maintenance costs. This program assists municipalities in converting existing incandescent bulbs in traffic signals to more energy efficient LED's. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, LED's are brighter, safer, and use significantly less energy (70% to 90%) than traditional bulbs, resulting in decreased utility costs. This program is implemented by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance through its Community & Government Services staff.

Municipalities who participate in the program will achieve significant energy savings. Estimated energy savings are calculated based upon an average annual energy savings of 9,900 kWh per intersection, per year, for a total savings of 2,316,600 kWh per year for 234 intersections.

Based on information provided by PennDOT District offices, there are a total of 1,124 traffic signals within the 7 county NEPA Alliance region. A total of 51 municipalities will benefit from this program.

A breakout of the number of municipalities in each county is as follows:

PennDOT District 4-0, Dunmore
Lackawanna - 9
Luzerne - 24
Pike - 2
Wayne - 3

PennDOT District 5-0, Allentown
Carbon - 4
Monroe - 5
Schuylkill - 5

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The grant funds awarded will provide a strong incentive to assist municipalities in converting from incandescent to LED bulbs and the conversion will lower the annual maintenance costs associated with traffic signals in each of the municipalities. This program will reduce utility costs by 70-90% and reduce energy demand and consumption, thus reducing carbon emissions.

For more information on NEPA's Energy Savings Assistance Program, please contact Kurt Bauman, Government Services Manager, NEPA Alliance at (570) 655-5581 or email to kbauman@nepa-alliance.org

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