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13 Put to Work

The federal stimulus package (ARRA) has been a welcome relief to 13 area residents who have recently been employed as a result of Green Hills Community Action Agency's green initiatives.

The agency has long held the mission of moving families toward self-sufficiency. The income from the green initiatives will do just that.

Monthly Newsletter

Green Initiatives Take Area By Storm!

Approximately \$850,000 was awarded to Green Hills Community Action Agency for new, highly creative, and innovative projects that would create jobs and stimulate the economy. The Energy Services Department, directed by Terri Henderson, is overseeing four ARRA projects.

Energy Usage Assessment

One project is called Energy Usage Assessment. This project has created 5 green jobs which are filled by low income clients, particularly those who have graduated from Step Up to Leadership, a program that GHCAA has offered for the past 5 years. With the Energy Usage Assessment, area citizens will have an auditor visit their home or apartment to conduct energy usage assessments of all electrical appliances in the home. This will help determine which appliances are highly consumptive energy users and which ones should be replaced if cost effective.

Fire Your Clothes Dryer

A second project is called Fire Your Clothes Dryer, which is creating 2 green jobs. With the project, at least 200 outdoor clothes lines and 200 indoor drying racks will be given away so that clients may stop using their clothes dryers to save electricity. Clothes drying is one of the largest consumers of electrical kilowatts each month.

Community Gardens

A third project is a very large scale

GHCAA's Energy Service Department is pleased to announce this will be a monthly newsletter! If you know of someone who may be interested in receiving this newsletter, please forward it to them, or tell them to [visit us online](#) and [sign up!](#)

Green Living Tips

Take shorter showers, every 2 min.= 10 gallons of water saved.

Set thermostat one degree higher for in summer and one degree lower in winter to save \$100/year.

Recycle-if everyone separated paper, plastic, glass and aluminum and recycled, we would decrease landfill waste by 75%.

Compost in the kitchen-fruits, scraps, coffee grounds are great for the garden.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher to save 7300 gallons of water per year.

Save leftovers resulting in enough food to feed 1.35 million US homeless children.



community garden project which will be located on land owned by the First Christian Church just north of the food pantry in Grundy County and near downtown Bethany for the Harrison County project. It will help feed 180 families in both Harrison and Grundy Counties. Green Hills Community Action Agency will seek members of the

general public to sponsor needy families for \$150/year to plant individual, small gardens. GHCAA will teach gardening skills, as well as food preservation. Garden seeds, hoes, and soil amendments will be provided for participants. A total of 6 people, 3 from Harrison and 3 from Grundy Counties, will be hired for this project. Interested persons wishing to plant a garden or sponsor a family are asked to call Terri Henderson at 660-359-3907, ext. 113. The three above projects combined will involve the hiring of 13 low income individuals.

Education & Advocacy

The fourth project, being managed by the Energy Services Department of GHCAA, is called Put A Little Green In Your Life. It will be an educational and advocacy project to teach the public how to live green. Mrs. Henderson will conduct many seminars and workshops throughout 9 counties. In addition, energy services personnel will be presenting in over 20 schools to teach children how to adopt green living principles in their own homes and lives.



Get A \$500 Value Energy Usage Assessment for Free!

Green Hills Community Action Agency Energy Services Department has begun offering Energy Usage Assessments for residents in the following counties: Caldwell, Daviess, Grundy, Harrison, Linn, Livingston, Mercer, Putnam, and Sullivan. Five area citizens will be conducting the audits including: Raymond Tennill and Peter Williams from Putnam County, Kelsey Shiflett from Linn County, Alecia Plummer from Caldwell County, and Mary Sims from Harrison County. Terri Henderson, Energy Services Director for Green Hills Community Action Agency is serving as the project manager.

Citizens falling below 200% of poverty guidelines qualify for the free Energy Usage Assessment which is a \$500 value. For example, a single person earning less than \$21,660 annually, a two person

Turn off water while brushing your teeth to save 1.5 billion gallons/ year in the US.

Flush one time less/ day to save 4.5 gallons of water daily.

If you have a fireplace, keep the damper closed unless a fire is lit.

Change light bulbs as old ones burn out.

Clean lint screen on dryer each time or better yet, use an outdoor line.



family with an income below \$29,140 annually, a family of three, earning \$36,620 or less annually, or a family of four, earning \$44,100 or less annually would all qualify. In order for members of the public to determine if they qualify or not, interested persons are asked to call 660-359-3907, ext. 113

The Energy Usage Assessments generally take about 2 hours. After gathering the data of kilowatt consumption, the team will compile the data, give the client specific information about what appliances are consuming the most energy, and make suggestions for cutting utility bills and living green. Electrical usage history will be tracked for the next 12 months for each person getting the assessment.

So far, over 200 area households are signed up for the Energy Usage Assessments but other are still sought for the free service. All assessments must be completed before September 2010. The service is offered during the day or during the evenings to accommodate working persons.

This project/program is funded in whole/or part with federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division. The funds received from the Family Support Division are all federally funded.