

John R. Kasich  
Governor

Christiane Schmenk  
Director

**For Immediate Release:**  
September 19, 2011

## Darke County Makes Quality of Life Improvements with Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Award

**Columbus** – Darke County recently wrapped up energy efficiency improvements to the Anthony Wayne Early Childhood Center and the Wayne Industries Facility in help from a \$160,248 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, administered by the Ohio Department of Development. The estimated cost of the project was \$220,248. Both buildings had been identified as needing improvements to energy efficiency for the health and comfort of the occupants.

“By investing in energy efficiency, we are creating a safer environment for Ohioans to work and live, while playing a key role in a greener tomorrow,” said Chad Smith, Interim Director of the Department's Ohio Energy Resources Division.

This project exemplifies the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program to reduce fossil fuel emissions, improve energy efficiency in the public sector, and create or preserve jobs.

“I am very happy with the results of this program,” said Mike Rhoades, Darke County Commissioner. “I like the savings that we are seeing take place already. Thanks to these kinds of programs, we all can see and benefit from this energy saving program.”

The Wayne Industries Facility was built in 1987 to serve adults with mental and other developmental disabilities. The facility was operating with the original furnace, air conditioning units, and high-bay and T-12 lighting. Both facilities received lighting retrofits to reduce energy consumption and provide enhanced lighting, window replacements to improve the thermal comfort, and replacement of the furnace and air conditioning units with high efficiency units to improve heating, air control, and reduce costs.



“Participation in this energy efficiency project has been an excellent way to match minimal local tax dollars with federal dollars to update our aging facilities,” said Michael Beasecker, Superintendent of the Darke County Board of Developmental Disabilities. “The long-term energy cost savings from window replacement, updated lighting fixtures, and replacement of heating and air conditioning units will be significant.”

In total, 66 windows at the Early Childhood Center and 13 windows at the Wayne Industries Facility were replaced. These new windows, along with the lighting retrofits and heating and air-conditioning improvement will allow Darke County to save 121,484 kilowatt hours of electricity, 103 million BTUs of gas, and 2,676 gallons of propane. The county also estimates that five jobs were created through these improvements.



For more information about the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program and project details, please visit:

<http://www.development.ohio.gov/recovery/EnergyEfficiencyConservationBlockGrants.htm>.

*The Ohio Energy Resources Division works to grow the economy of the state by connecting companies and communities to financial and technical resources in order to deploy renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

###

Media contacts: Katie Sabatino at (614) 466-6212 or  
the Communications and Marketing Office at (614) 466-2609

Office of Communications & Marketing • 77 South High Street • P.O. Box 1001 • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • U.S.A. • 614 | 466 2609

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of ADA Services.