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Energy Grant can Help Fairfield County Businesses Save on Energy Costs

Lancaster, Ohio – The Fairfield County Port Authority (FCPA) has received an extension for its Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grant to reduce energy costs for businesses in the county. This grant can be used to identify how new technology can be used to save local businesses thousands of dollars on heating, cooling, or lighting their facilities.

Any manufacturer in Fairfield County outside of Violet Township is eligible for this grant and can get an energy audit completed at almost no cost to their business.

The county has been working with Energility to audit energy usage of local manufacturers. The USDA's Rural Energy Assistance Program for America (REAP) grant saves 20%-to-40% of current utility bills and the grant will cover up to 75% of the cost of an energy audit.

"When conducting an energy audit our organization takes a comprehensive view of facility operations," said Justin Kale, Director of Energility. "We identify both low-cost savings opportunities and capital improvements for future investment. Then, we translate our analysis into actions that are meaningful to our clients. The result is an engineered plan for making businesses more efficient and sustainable."

Energility estimates that the average cost a business will directly incur for an audit is approximately 10 cents per square foot. The FCPA's goal is to target manufacturers in fabricated metals and machinery since they are high users of utilities and could net the greatest savings. It also ties back to the county's goal of highlighting careers in manufacturing for local students, with the average manufacturing job paying \$50,871 annually.

So far, there have been three Fairfield County businesses that have received an audit through this grant. Rick Szabrak, Executive Director of the Port Authority, asked to extend the grant until November 24, 2020 because he thinks that there is opportunity in the county for businesses to take advantage of this program.

"In today's economic environment it's important for businesses to identify ways to reduce costs," said Szabrak. "This grant allows businesses to do that through improvements to their operations and improves the company's carbon footprint. Any business that produces a good is eligible."

For more information on the Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grant, or to take part in an energy audit for a manufacturing facility, please contact Rick Szabrak at 740-652-7162 or rick.szabrak@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

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