



## ANN ARBOR DDA ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM ENTERS THIRD YEAR

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Ann Arbor, MI – In support of the City’s Green Energy Challenge and the Ann Arbor DDA’s goal to encourage a more sustainable downtown, the DDA announces that it will once again be accepting applications for its Downtown Energy Saving Grant Program. This is the third year the DDA will be providing these grants. **Applications for Phase I are available on the [DDA website](#) and are due November 30, 2010.**

**Phase I** of the program provides approved applicants with free energy audits for buildings or businesses within the DDA District. The audits, conducted by a qualified contractor, will provide a full report on the current energy use of the building and outline a tailored list of recommended energy-saving measures. Estimated cost for this phase is \$2,000 - \$5,000 to be fully paid for by the DDA.

**Phase II** of the program is the installation of improvements called out in the energy audit. These may include insulation and air-sealing, new heating and cooling equipment, energy-efficient windows, etc. In this program phase, project costs will be shared equally by the business/building owner and the DDA, up to \$20,000 each.

The DDA program expanded in 2009 and now includes a partnership with the City of Ann Arbor Energy Office to make zero interest loans available to participants through a federal grant. In addition, the DDA energy grant program provides assistance to applicants to take advantage of the utility rebates now available from DTE Energy for energy improvements. These rebates can be added to the DDA rebates.

In the first two years of the program, 94 downtown businesses were approved to receive a free energy audit. As of September 1, 2010 – 65 of the audits have been completed, identifying \$1,907,000 in recommended energy improvements with a savings of \$360,340/year and a payback of 5.3 years. Most first year audit recipients are now moving forward with the installation of energy-saving measures and over 20 businesses have already completed Phase II. Energy-Saving Investments total \$237,000 and are projected to save \$42,970/yr in energy costs. To reduce the cost of energy improvements, the DDA has provided \$104,000 in rebates to these downtown businesses.

[Zingerman’s](#) is one of many downtown businesses that benefitted from the DDA Energy Saving Grant Program in 2009-2010, investing over \$16,800 in improvements and expecting to save over \$4,500 in annual energy costs. With plans to implement more energy improvements in the next year, Nancy Rucker, Zingerman’s facility Manager, expressed her enthusiasm for the DDA program, *“The audit has been a big success for us here at the deli ... I highly recommend that all downtown businesses take advantage of this opportunity to gain matching funds and*

*professional guidance. You can't go wrong – everything you need is provided and the results keep on giving!"*

This program is the latest in a number of DDA initiatives to promote sustainability as an essential component of downtown development. The DDA plays a significant role in alternative transportation programs by providing 90% of the cost for the go!pass (free bus passes for 6,000 downtown employees), bike hoops and lockers, commuter rail research, Zipcar sponsorship, and the getDowntown Program. Additionally, the DDA provided the funds for the installation of a solar-electric demonstration project at the Farmers Market, the cost for the downtown LED street lights, and downtown sidewalk recycling containers.

For an application and more information on the DDA's Energy Saving Grant Program visit: [http://www.a2dda.org/current\\_projects/downtown\\_energy\\_saving\\_grant\\_program/](http://www.a2dda.org/current_projects/downtown_energy_saving_grant_program/). If your business is located outside the downtown and you are interested in pursuing an energy audit of your own, call the City's Energy Office for more information at (734) 794-6430 x43711.

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