

Getting WARM

Summer 2008



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AFFORDABLE COMMUNITIES SINCE 1981

Success Story



Nathaniel Scott is a 77 year old Sunday School teacher. He participated in WARM's energy education program in December, 2007, when Andrea Fleming, one of WARM's friendly energy educators, paid Nathaniel a home energy visit.

"Initially, from her coming out, it helped in a lot of ways. My light bill went down 10 to 15 percent—a very noticeable decline—after using those energy efficient light bulbs."

Mr. Scott also made use of the window kits, caulking, weather stripping, and door sweep provided by WARM to see a reduction in his gas bill, which he called "tremendously important."

Now Mr. Scott encourages people at his church to enroll in the program when they are having trouble with their utility bills.

Regarding the combination of WARM energy education and financial assistance from THAW, Mr. Scott said, "Emotionally, the program saved my life... The Lord heard my prayers!"

Save the Date: Oct. 29, 2008
Financial Institutions Community Development Conference:
"Where Do We Go From Here?"

KNOWLEDGE IS (SAVING) POWER

WARM continues its work to educate Detroit residents on energy efficiency, and in effect, energy savings. Rising utility costs and a stagnant economy make this knowledge a vital tool of survival for many, and WARM strives to maximize its services to meet the growing demand. By the end of 2008, over 3,000 people will have received energy education in the form of workshops or home visits.

None of this would be possible without funding from the Michigan Public Service Commission, or without the help of WARM's partners: The Salvation Army, Detroit Department of Human Services, and The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW). In addition to providing residents with assistance on their bills, the SA, DDHS, and THAW sites such as Mack Alive, Friendship House, and Acts 29 provide WARM with the space and facilities to hold its workshops. These agencies, along with the Michigan Department of Hu-

"These partnerships provide both long and short term solutions"



George Highgate, WARM Energy Educator, teaches a workshop of nearly 50 Detroit residents at Salvation Army's Brightmoor Community Center

man Services, work with WARM to ensure each client completes educational training before receiving assistance. In this way, these partnerships provide both short and long term solutions. They deal with the

crisis at hand while empowering residents to control their own energy use, now and in the future. WARM is extremely grateful to these organizations for giving us the opportunity to have a positive impact on so many Detroit residents.

GREEN CONSULTING FOR CITIES!

If you look around the country you find that municipal governments have had a unique role in determining whether a region adopts sustainable practices. Residents and businesses are often much more inclined to "go green" if they see their municipal governments leading by example and providing incentives.

WARM recently received a grant from the Michigan Public Service Commission that will allow us to bring our expertise to local governments. While awareness of green issues has become very high, actual knowledge about best practices varies. We'll be able to help cities take those next steps, getting ahead of the curve on rising energy prices and future carbon legislation.

Partnerships are at the center of making this new program work. WARM will be partnering with the Michigan Suburbs Alliance, SEMCOG, the Michigan Municipal League, the US Green Building Council and others to help Detroit and other cities in the region tackle how to make green work for their circumstances.



The green roof atop Chicago's City Hall demonstrates the City's commitment to sustainability.

With these partnerships in place, no one has to reinvent the wheel and we can leverage a better service for the region. Some groups have the connections to city governments, while others have the expertise, and all share the desire to not let Michigan get left in the dust in the 21st century.

Stay tuned for more details on this exciting initiative as we roll out the program.

NEWS BRIEFS

Congratulations GRDC

The Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation recently moved its offices to a newly renovated building on Grand River Avenue. WARM was happy to lend its consultation services to help GRDC include many green building features in its new home, such as daylighting tubes, high efficiency lighting and HVAC equipment, super-insulation, and recycled materials.

Get your questions answered with WARM's new Green Blog

What kind of sustainable flooring works best in a bathroom? Are new windows a cost-effective investment? Go to WARM's new interactive Green Blog to get answers to all your green questions, share information, and see the latest discussions regarding green topics. Find a link to the blog on WARM's website: www.warmtraining.org



New Board Members

A WARM welcome to Greg McDuffee and Malik Goodwin. Malik is project management director at the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation. Greg is the general manager of the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority that owns and manages the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, a 2006 and 2007 Energy Star award winner. We value their contribution to WARM as we work to help Detroit Get Green!

Home Repair Class Series

WARM continues free homeowner education for Detroiters through our Home Repair Class Series. The class offers hands-on instruction on basic carpentry, electrical and plumbing repair, painting and drywall repair, outdoor maintenance and landscaping, and green building and healthy homes. If your organization would like to host a home repair series, call Peter Klein at (313) 894-1030 x110.

WARM Training Center

4835 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48210
(313) 894-1030

Save the Date: Oct. 29 2008
Community Development
Conference

Get Green this Summer with these Money \$aving Tips:

- Keep windows, curtains and blinds closed on hot days to keep out heat from sun; open at night to let the cooler air in
- Give your AC a break! Keep doors or vents to unused rooms closed so your AC has less space to keep cool, and opt for natural cooling whenever weather permits
- Invest in a rain barrel. Divert water from your downspout to use for lawn and garden care, car washing, etc. Your plants will like the untreated water and your pocket book will thank you when the water bill comes!

Promoting Sustainable Affordable Communities Since 1981

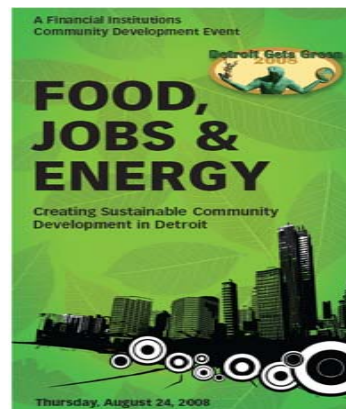
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Fall Conference to Focus on Future of Community Development

Wednesday, October 29 begins an important three days for those who care about neighborhood community development in Detroit. It marks the 2008 annual Community Development Conference.

In a time of major slowdown on new housing starts, a foreclosure crisis, high unemployment and struggling City services, the Conference theme was obvious: "Where Do We Go From Here?" The keynote speaker will be Allan Mallach, senior fellow at the National Housing Institute.

Linked to the Conference is an exciting initiative taking place in Detroit on Friday,



April's Financial Institutions Community Development Conference focused on food, jobs and energy in Detroit.

October 31 and Saturday, November 1. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has awarded Detroit the re-

sources of a Sustainable Development Assessment Team (SDAT). This three day charrette, headed up by Dr. Mallach, will include national experts in the fields of energy, land use, public transportation and green jobs.

Thursday's conference will give the team unique insight on the challenges community leaders face in Detroit, making them better prepared for their weekend's work. Likewise, community leaders will benefit from the fresh input of national experts as they grapple with the issues.

Look for more information in the near future on both of these events.