

For Immediate Release
October 2, 2007

OHIO'S ELECTRIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy Recognizes the Electric Partnership Program as "Exemplary"

COLUMBUS — Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher is pleased to announce that the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, a nonprofit research group based in Washington, D.C., has recognized the Ohio Department of Development's Electric Partnership Program as an "exemplary program" as part of a national awards program to honor America's leading energy efficiency programs.

"The honor from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy is especially significant as Ohio strives toward becoming a global leader in energy efficiency and advanced energy innovation," said Lt. Governor Fisher, who also serves as Director of the Ohio Department of Development.

"These programs are delivering energy savings that are critical in helping customers cope with today's high energy costs, plus they make an important environmental contribution because they help reduce greenhouse gas emissions," noted Martin Kushler, Ph.D., the Council's Utilities Program Director. "This is truly a 'win-win' situation."

"The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy conducted this national review to recognize outstanding energy efficiency programs and honor the people and organizations responsible for their success," explained Dan York, Ph.D., the Council's Project Director. "Programs such as The Electric Partnership Program demonstrate the very real value of energy efficiency to the customers it serves."

Ohio's Electric Partnership Program was created under a provision of the Ohio Electric Restructuring Act of 1999, and was designed by the Ohio Energy Office to reduce the electric consumption of customers of investor-owned utilities who are participating in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan in order to reduce the cost to ratepayers and customers. The program targets Plan customers whose annual electric usage is more than 4000 kWh. The customer receives energy efficient retrofits to replace inefficient appliance and light bulbs.

From the inception of the program through the end of the latest program year (June 30, 2007) 45,190 customers have been served, receiving 26,081 refrigerators, 9,784 freezers, and 635,489 compact fluorescent light bulbs. In addition, customers in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan have received consumer education, which teaches them ways to further reduce their usage. The high usage program saves the utility ratepayers \$1.32 for every dollar expended. The customer saves an average of 1750 kWh/year (13.4% of the bill).

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to research and policy development to advance energy efficiency as a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection. For more information, visit aceee.org.

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