

FRANKLIN COUNTY ANNOUNCES ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

For Release: January 7, 2010

Franklin County today announced that it is launching an Energy Conservation Program that will allow the County to become environmentally responsible and at the same time become more fiscally efficient. Board of Commissioners Chair penny McGhee noted that the County Board of Commissioners has strongly endorsed the concept of making Franklin County 'greener', and urges all County employees and citizens to cooperate in improving our environment.

Chair McGhee explained that the program will begin immediately, and will be led by a County Energy Conservation Committee that will plan and develop strategic plans for achieving more energy-efficient programs throughout the County. The Committee will be co-chaired by County Manager Angela Harris and County Finance Director Charles Murray. The Committee is composed of key County employees and other energy experts from across the County, and includes:

- Ms. Angela Harris* – County Manager
- Mr. Charles Murray* - Finance Director
- Mr. John Faulkner – Chair – Franklin County Green Committee
- Mr. Glen Liles – County Maintenance Manager
- Mr. Bryce Mendenhall – County Utilities Director
- Mr. Gerial Proctor – Progress Energy
- Mr. Mark Warren – Louisburg Electricities
- Ms. Angela Perez – Wake Electric Membership Corp.

County Manager Angela Harris clarified that Franklin County will be making the needed environmental improvements at little cost to the taxpayers of Franklin County. The State Energy Office, a division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, has created a series of energy efficiency programs that will benefit counties and Franklin County is working closely with the State on its program.

The Franklin County Energy Conservation Program will conduct its initial meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2010 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room in the Administrative Building. The first meeting will focus on organizing and initiating the planning and assessment process.

The first phase of the program will include development of a professional and thorough assessment of the County's energy status. The County will be retaining a professional energy assessment team to perform that energy assessment; the work of that team will be overseen by the Energy Conservation Committee and paid through funds from the State Energy Office, through federal Stimulus funding. That team has already been requested from the State Energy Office. The energy assessment team will also prepare an initial, short term energy conservation plan the implementation of which can be started shortly upon completion and evaluation of the energy assessment.

Ms. Harris expanded on the next phase of the program, noting that it will include implementation of short-term projects that will provide immediate results, and demonstrate the potential of the Program. This second phase will also allow application to the State Energy Office for funding that will defray much of the costs of those initial projects.

McGhee emphasized that the Franklin County decision to work with the State Energy Office, and to use its funding whenever possible is an indication of the strong commitment of the County Commissioners to a program that will truly make a change for the better, and the use of outside resources is a way to make sure that the County resources dedicated to the Energy Conservation Program will leverage federal and state funds as much as possible.

As the initial short term energy plan is completed and implementation has begun, Ms. Harris explained, the next phase of action will begin; the development of intermediate (18 months to three years) and long term (three years and beyond) planning and program development. The longer range plan will be developed by the Energy Conservation Program Committee, with assistance from the State Energy Office, and will be geared to take advantage of federal and state funding as a method of accelerating and expanding the conservation measures. Rick Seekins of the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of

Governments will be assisting with the development and implementations of the overall County Energy Conservation Program.

It was explained that the Federal and State governments have dedicated new programs and proposed increased funding to further the cause of energy conservation and the intermediate and long term plan and implementation program of Franklin County will be planned and scheduled to use those funds as they are made available whenever possible.

Ms. Harris further explained that the intermediate and long term projects that will emerge from the Energy Conservation Plan are geared to provide energy savings and to preserve County employment, and that measurable objectives will be established at each key point throughout the Energy Conservation Program and success of the Program will be measured against those measurable objectives. The objectives may include obvious measures, such as reduced energy conservation and lower bills, but may also include other important objectives such as employee orientation and involvement, etc. in the long term, the program hopes to change the way we use and think about energy.

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For more information regarding the Franklin County Energy Conservation Program, please contact the following;

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