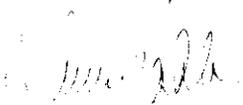


Source:

Water & Light  
Department

Agenda Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

  
J. Kraig Kahler

Fiscal Impact

YES

NO

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** City Manager and Staff



**DATE:** August 11, 2008

**RE:** Home Performance with Energy Star and Energy Star Home Programs

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a report regarding the Home Performance with Energy Star and Energy Star Home Programs. The Water and Light Department has successfully implemented the Home Performance with Energy Star and Energy Star Home programs. These are national programs provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Energy Star is a government backed program that helps consumers protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. Both programs offer a comprehensive, whole-house approach to improving energy efficiency and comfort at home, while reducing energy costs and improving the environment. Home performance with Energy Star is a retrofit program for existing homes and Energy Star Home is a new construction program. Both programs utilize trained contractors and raters which provide a verification of the whole house approach. Contractors participating in Home Performance with Energy Star (HPwES) and Energy Star Home can assure homeowners that their home's energy efficiency is of the highest standards.

**DISCUSSION:**

Documenting a home's energy performance is a critical piece of information needed in building and marketing an energy efficient home. Home energy ratings provide a standard measurement of a home's energy efficiency. Ratings are used for both new and existing homes. In new homes, ratings verify energy performance for the Energy Star Home program which is sometimes used to qualify a customer for energy efficient mortgages and Federal IRS tax credits on new construction. In existing structures, remodeling contractors participating in HPwES are specially-trained to evaluate a home using state-of-the-art equipment and recommending comprehensive improvements which will yield the best results.

Water and Light staff has worked in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Energy, The Metropolitan Energy Center of Kansas City, and the EarthWays Center of St. Louis to develop a Home Performance with Energy Star program on a statewide basis.

Water and Light staff has been trained and certified by the Building Performance Institute (BPI) to provide qualitative/quantitative assessments. In addition, staff has organized BPI training and certification for 26 contractors/individuals on whole house energy efficiency assessments. Once certified these contractors of Home Performance with Energy Star have conducted 45 diagnostic assessments and have completed 5 retrofits to homes that are now Energy Star Qualified. To verify the rating a third party home inspection/rating is completed on each to achieve the Energy Star qualification.

The same process now holds true for the Energy Star Home Program. The states of Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas have established a certification program for contractors interested in building superior energy efficient homes. The Energy Star Home design and construction allows homeowners to seek an energy efficient mortgage and Federal Energy Tax Credits of \$2,000.

The success of the Home Performance with Energy Star and Energy Star Home has been monitored. To date the HPwES is averaging a 24% reduction in energy consumption. The two Energy Star Homes that have been constructed and qualified are seeing a 34% reduction in energy usage.

**SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTION:**

No Council action at this time.

JKK/srb