



News Release  
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### **Energy Education Grants Awarded at May 17 Symposium In Kearney**

Lincoln, Neb. – The Nebraska Energy Assistance Network (NEAN) will award grants to seven agencies to help them educate families on better ways to manage their energy needs. The recipients will be recognized during the “Energy Education...Managing Challenges and Finding Solutions” Symposium, May 17 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney.

The grants provide the agencies with up to 30 energy efficiency kits, a facilitator’s guide and educational training program materials. The materials are valued at \$700.

Agencies receiving the grants are:

- **McCook Economic Development Corporation, McCook**
- **Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders County, Lincoln**
- **Rebuilding Together Omaha, Inc., Omaha**
- **Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska, Gering**
- **Blue Valley Community Action, Fairbury**
- **Christian Outreach Program of Elkhorn, Elkhorn**
- **Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc., Omaha**

“The kits are effective tools for educating customers on how to save energy in their homes,” said Roger Hunt of Nebraska Public Power District’s Energy Efficiency team.

The NEAN Symposium will provide ideas, tools and skills for attendees to use when discussing energy use with clients as well as how to create opportunities for consumers to change energy-related behaviors to save money and resources.

Symposium topics and presenters are:

- *Changing Minds – Changing Behaviors* by Mary Ferdig, president of the Sustainability Leadership Institute;
- *Education Cause and Effect* by DaNel Hogan, Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and
- *What Is Happening in the Field of Energy Education: Samples of creative programs, curriculum, leverage of resources and organizations, connecting with clients* by Rana Belshe, president of Conservation Connection Consulting.

Afternoon breakout sessions: Low Income Program Examples, by Tina Gray, Creighton University's Financial Hop Collaborative Director; One Touch, Working Together to provide energy efficiency and healthy homes, by Nicole Caputo-Rennels, Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance; Get A Head Start on Energy, by Shirley Neimeyer and Carroll Welte.

The Youth Education Track: Revamp of the Energy EDU Program, by Chad Johnson, NPPD Senior Education Specialist; and Engaging Youth and Young Adults in Energy Education by John Killingsworth, Doctoral Candidate at UNL.

The symposium, funded through a grant from the Nebraska Energy Office, is open to community outreach agency staff and volunteers, civic and charity organizations, educators, utility representatives and government officials and staff. **Registration for the symposium can be completed at [www.nebraskaenergyassistance.org](http://www.nebraskaenergyassistance.org). The cost is \$35 for NEAN members and their employees or \$45 for non-member companies and organizations.**

The Nebraska Energy Assistance Network is a partnership of utilities, governmental agencies, regulators and community leaders. They have joined together to: educate Nebraskans to use energy efficiently, assist residents in meeting their basic energy needs, provide links to financial assistance and energy efficiency resources, and to identify and address energy needs.

NEAN members are: •Omaha Public Power District •NorthWestern Energy •Black Hills Energy •Nebraska Health & Human Services •Nebraska Public Power District •Dawson Public Power District •SourceGas •Loup Power District •Nebraska Public Service Commission •American Red Cross Heartland Chapter •Blue Valley Community Action Partnership •Community Action Program of Lancaster & Saunders Co. •The Salvation Army, Heartland Chapter •United Way of the Midlands •University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension •Metropolitan Utilities District •Nebraska Head Start •Central Nebraska Community Services •Goldenrod Hills Community Action •Nebraska Propane Gas Association •Custer Public Power District •Heartland Family Services, Omaha •Three Rivers Housing Development Corp. •Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska •Financial Hope Collaborative @ Creighton University •Northwest Community Action Program •Heartland Family Service, Sarpy Office •Nebraska Community Action Partnership and •Nebraska Energy Office.