

W. Haven Gets Funds for Energy Efficiency

New Haven Register, Conn.

2009-09-21

Sep. 21--WEST HAVEN -- West Haven is one of two Connecticut cities getting stimulus money directly from the federal government for projects to improve energy efficiency in town.

Federal legislators in Connecticut have announced that West Haven has been awarded \$471,600 to help implement projects that will improve efficiency and promote conservation, alternative renewable fuel development and reduction of greenhouse gases.

"This is good news. We are going to put this money to good use," Mayor John M. Picard said Tuesday.

The other Connecticut town receiving funds directly from the federal government is Stamford, which is slated to receive \$1,186,300. The state as a whole will receive \$9,593,500 in stimulus funding to be distributed to individual towns for energy efficiency projects.

The money comes from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, which is handed out by the U.S. Department of Energy.

In WestHaven , the money will be used to finance several projects, including one that will install solar panels on top of the Savin Rock Conference Center.

"For the conference center alone, you are gong to be saving a certain percentage e of the electrical bills over there," said Public Works Commissioner Beth Sabo. She estimated the savings could be as much as 20 percent.

"The more that we do energy efficient projects the better we are off as a municipality and as a community," she added.

The funding also was intended to fund replacement of several aging boilers in the school system, but Picard said other funding was found for that project. The result is additional stimulus funding becoming available for other energy efficiency projects

within the city, Picard said.

He declined to elaborate on what specific projects would benefit.

U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-3, hailed the announcement as good news for West Haven and for the state.

"I am pleased that West Haven will be on the cutting edge of nationwide efforts to promote clean, affordable, and reliable energy strategies," she said in a statement. "By deploying existing energy efficiency and conservation technologies- we can begin this work immediately and create good jobs in Connecticut."

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