



# COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

FALL 2010

## Have any interest in participating in a grant application for funding to convert traffic signals into LED?

The Community Assistance division at SPC is asking for your help to determine the need for additional grant funding to help municipalities pay for the conversion of traditional signals to LED.



The capital cost of LED lighting equipment per intersection is approximately \$2,000. The approximate cost of installing LED lighting per

intersection is \$1,000. Payback at today's electricity rates without grant funding is approximately 3 years.

LED traffic signal technology can use 90% less energy than traditional incandescent lighting and can reduce operational costs by 80%. The average annual electricity cost of a signalized intersection is \$1,000. The uncapping of electricity rates by 2010 will result in at least a 35% increase in electricity charges, increasing the annual cost of traffic signals in the near future. Furthermore, the life of LED lighting is 5-7 years, representing significantly lower annual replacement and maintenance costs over incandescent traffic lights.

Please contact Laura Mundell at SPC if you would like more information or would like to participate in a grant program.

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## Regional Training Programs and Conferences

Several noteworthy courses are offered this Fall. Contact information is shown for all the courses.

DATE	TIME	COURSE NAME	LOCATION	DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION
10/25/10	8am - 4pm	Winter Maintenance	Canonsburg Borough Municipal Building	10/18/10
10/26/10	8am - 4pm	Winter Maintenance	Pearson Park New Castle, PA	10/18/10
10/27/10	8am - 4pm	Bridge Maintenance and Inspection	PennDOT District 10 Offices Indiana, PA	10/19/10
11/8/10	8am - 4pm	Drainage	Kittanning Twp. Fire Hall Kittanning, PA	10/29/10

*For information, contact:*

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### 6th Annual Regional Equitable Development Summit

*"Going Regional on Addressing Blighted and Abandoned Properties"*

**Tuesday, December 15, 2009**

**8:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd.,  
Oakland**

The presence of blighted and abandoned properties are among Southwestern Pennsylvania's most pressing threats undermining sustainable communities and regional equitable development. Blight and abandonment is a tip of the iceberg issue that undermines and potentially exacts a downward spiral sentence on quality of life and prosperity across social, economic and environmental essentials for a sustainable community. Without mitigation, this problem will continue to grow and be a drain on the region's resources. As the Statewide Blight Task Force noted in 2008, "Blight is an "economic crime" costing taxpayers and municipalities millions of dollars annually in lost property tax revenues, sewer and water fees, and increased municipal expenditures."

This year's Summit will present findings on recommendations from recent work, specific to our region, on how regional capacity can be developed to address blight and abandonment. Practical strategies and cooperative efforts will be

developed to address blight and abandonment. Practical strategies and cooperative efforts will be highlighted as ripe for deployment to the benefit of individual communities and the regional as a whole.

The event is hosted by Sustainable Pittsburgh. Check their website for upcoming registration details: [www.sustainablepittsburgh.org](http://www.sustainablepittsburgh.org).

### Grants Training in Allison Park, PA November 4-5, 2010

Allegheny County Police Training Academy and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in Allison Park, November 4-5, 2010. In this class you'll learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals. This training is applicable to grant seekers across all disciplines.

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 420MB resource CD that's packed full of tools and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary.

Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and on line registration at [www.grantwritingusa.com](http://www.grantwritingusa.com).

## Energy Audits- Save Money and Build a more Sustainable Region

PowerSmart-Energy Savings Program. Energy costs in the SPC region are predicted to increase by 29% in the next few years. SPC created PowerSmart to help local governments and non-profit agencies save money while improving the environment.

PowerSmart- SPC's comprehensive approach to reduce energy costs for local governments, schools and hospitals through energy efficiency improvements and demand-side energy management. Services include:

- Approaches to energy management planning
- Technical Assistance
- Utility Bill Analysis
- Training Workshops
- Energy Assessments & Audits
- LED Traffic Signal Conversion
- Help with accessing financing or funding for improvements

Participating in the PowerSmart program can help:

- reduce energy consumption and increase operating efficiencies
- reduce energy bills and operating costs
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- save taxpayer money



## Southwestern Pennsylvania- Connecting with the global economy

The growth of Pennsylvania exports during the first half of this year outpaced national exports by more than five percent. If this rate of growth continues, export sales for all Pennsylvania companies could break the state's all-time record, which was \$34.6 billion in 2008.



SPC's Export Development Program hosted Pennsylvania International Week (PIW) for the southwestern region on September 14 & 15, 2010 at the Regional Enterprise Tower, downtown

Pittsburgh. PIW is an annual event of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to promote PA's exports to the world by bringing overseas trade representatives from 21 countries to provide business counseling services to local companies interested in selling their products and services overseas. SPC's Export program staff arranged 220 appointments for 53 local firms to meet one-on-one with PA trade representatives to discuss their export market potentials and opportunities.

According to a DCED press release, Pennsylvania reported \$644 million in new export sales and foreign-direct investment during 2009-2010, which was 12 percent higher than the previous record performance in 2008-2009.

China is now Pennsylvania's second largest export market thanks to its 66 percent increase in sales during 2009-2010. Canada remains the largest destination for Pennsylvania-produced goods and services, while Mexico is now third.

## Looking for funding to pay for alternative energy?

As a group of primarily for-profit businesses, the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA) understands the value of restoring economic viability to Pennsylvania. Undoubtedly, this is an exciting and challenging time to be in the energy efficiency business. Their goal is to bring you all the information and resources you need to save energy and money, while promoting the best standards and results for this industry.

Check out EnergyWisePa, at <http://www.energywisepa.org>.



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