



Contact: Janelle Tummel
651-266-6549
Janelle.tummel@ci.stpaul.mn.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME ENERGY SQUAD VISITS 4,000TH SAINT PAUL HOME THIS WEEK

*Simple and affordable energy-saving improvements save
Saint Paul residents \$768,000 annually in energy costs*

SAINT PAUL, MN (July 22, 2011) — This week, Saint Paul marked the 4,000th home that has taken advantage of the Home Energy Squad energy efficiency program, which saves Saint Paul residents \$768,000 annually in heating and cooling costs.

“The environment is our most precious resource, and actively working toward more energy-efficient homes is a critical step towards preserving it. Saint Paul’s commitment to sustainability includes offering solutions that make it easy for residents to reduce energy consumption and save money,” Mayor Chris Coleman said.

“We’re happy to hit this number so early in the year, but we’re ready to do even more,” said Jean Hammer, Xcel Energy market manager. “The goal is to help people achieve energy efficiency one home at a time with easy, tangible improvements.”

Home Energy Squad, a partnership with Neighborhood Energy Connection (NEC), Xcel Energy, CenterPoint Energy and the Center for Energy and Environment allows homeowners to sign up for a quick home assessment followed by immediate energy savings. Technicians quickly assess a home’s efficiency and install efficiency-boosting products, such as programmable thermostats, weather stripping and compact fluorescent lights. The cost of the program is about \$80 but may be less, depending on income levels. These measures will save an average of \$192 annually on energy bills. Residents can sign up for an Energy Squad visit at www.homeenergysquad.net.

Residents can also access City of Saint Paul Energy Smart Homes, a no-interest, deferred loan program for Saint Paul homeowners. Loans up to \$6,500 are available for pricier energy upgrades such as insulation or furnace replacement. Visit <http://bit.ly/EnergySmartHomes> or call NEC at 651-221-4462 ext. 132 for details.

Both efforts are key components of the Energy Innovation Corridor, a first-of-its-kind, clean energy and transportation initiative that extends along the 11-mile Central Corridor light rail transit project route, from downtown Saint Paul to downtown Minneapolis. Learn more at <http://www.energyinnovationcorridor.com/page/>.

###

Note to editors:

High resolution photos of the Home Energy Squad vehicle and activities are available upon request.

