

For Immediate Release

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Fairfield County Port Authority Receives Energy Grant to Assist Manufacturers

Lancaster, Ohio – The Fairfield County Port Authority (FCPA) has received a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to assist local manufacturers cut energy costs and increase efficiencies. The county will be launching its Energize your Business campaign this summer in efforts to identify how new technology can be used to save local businesses thousands of dollars on heating, cooling or lighting their facilities.

The county will work with Dynamix Energy Services to audit energy usage of local manufacturers. The USDA's Rural Energy Assistance Program for America (REAP) grant will cover 75% of the cost of an energy audit with the business required to provide the remainder. Dynamix estimates that the average cost for an audit is approximately ten cents per square foot.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer this service," said Rick Szabrak, Executive Director of the Fairfield County Port Authority. "Energize Your Business savings will directly impact the bottom line of the company. This can lead to reinvestment in people, property, or new programs to help them compete in a globalized economy. It's a small investment that could result in big savings."

Any manufacturer outside of Violet Township is eligible for this grant. The FCPA's goal is to target manufacturers in fabricated metals and machinery since they are high users of utilities and could net the greatest savings. It also ties back to the county's goal of highlighting careers in manufacturing for local students, with the average manufacturing job paying \$50,871 annually.

"We applied for this grant because the average manufacturing facility in Fairfield County was built in 1968 and likely has a need for some upgrades," said Patrick O'Malia, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Specialist. "It is much more cost effective to keep an existing employer than to attract a new one. This program closely aligns with the county's business retention and expansion program and is another example of why Fairfield County is a business friendly and focused environment for manufacturers."

Once the cost saving measures are identified the port authority will work with its partners to secure long-term, fixed-rate financing for the manufacturers so they can cost effectively invest in their facilities.

For more information on the Energize Your Business campaign, or to take part in an energy audit for a manufacturing facility, please contact Patrick O'Malia at 740-652-7165 or patrick.omalia@fairfieldcountyohio.gov