



Lawrence Joins EPA in Signing Green Power Partnership

The Environmental Protection Agency recently recognized the City of Lawrence for its efforts in reducing the risk of climate change through the EPA's Green Power Partnership Program. The partnership encourages individuals, businesses, and organizations to buy "green" power, reducing the negative environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity production.

Green power is generated using solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, biomass, and low-impact hydro-energy. Last fall, the city took a significant step toward reducing its impact on the environment through the purchase of Zephyr Energy, 50% of which is produced in Lawrence at the Bowersock Mills and Power Company on the Kansas River. The purchase was made through the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, a nonprofit foundation based in Portland, Oregon.

The city's purchase of green power was in the form of renewable energy certificates or green tags, which are commodities that represent the positive environmental attributes of producing power using low-impact renewable energy sources. The green power entering the country's electric grid reduces the amount of conventional power—such as electricity from coal-fired power plants—which must be produced to meet demand.

The purchase of the Zephyr Energy green tags will offset the city's electricity use for municipal operations by 3%. By achieving the 3% threshold, Lawrence qualified to join the EPA's Green Power Partnership, which was signed on April 10, 2007 by then-Mayor Mike Amyx.

The Green Power Partnership is part of a multi-year process and adds to the city's initiative in climate protection.

Current Mayor Sue Hack recently launched the City's Green Power Community Campaign, which encourages the purchase of green power by individuals, companies, and organizations. Once 2% of all electricity used citywide is offset through the purchase of renewable energy certificates, Lawrence will receive EPA recognition as a Green

Power Community. To learn more about the benefits of green power, visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/greenpower.

Hanover, Highland, Horton, Hunter, and St. Paul Receive KAN STEP Grants

The Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce) has awarded nearly \$1.4 million in KAN STEP funding to the cities of Hanover, Highland, Horton, Hunter, and St. Paul. The funding will be matched by more than \$1.4 million in cash, volunteer labor, and other resources from the recipient communities and private donors.

KAN STEP is a self-help program that enables small communities to make major infrastructure improvements. Local residents volunteer labor or services—termed "sweat equity"—while Commerce provides funding for technical services and materials. The result is that small communities have an opportunity to invest in projects they otherwise could not afford.

Funding for KAN STEP initiatives is provided through the federal CDBG program, which provides federal funds to local governments for the development of viable communities by addressing their housing, public facilities, and economic-development needs. To be awarded funds, governments must meet at least one of three program objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slums and blight, or resolve an urgent need where local resources are not available.

The awards will be used to build community centers in Hanover, Highland, Horton, and Hunter. In addition, the KAN STEP program will be used to construct fire stations in Highland and St. Paul.

Overland Park Engineer Named Young Leader by APWA

Dan Stack stacks up against the best pretty well. Stack, 33, has been named the Young Leader by the American Public Works Association (APWA). He will be recognized at the APWA annual conference

in San Antonio later this year.

"Overland Park residents and businesses expect outstanding service. Dan Stack has proven he is capable of meeting those expectations and beyond. He is the second city engineer from Overland Park to win this prestigious award in four years. No other city agency in the nation has two winners in this category. We are fortunate to have a talented work force in the city," said City Manager John Nachbar.

"Overland Park residents have made it perfectly clear that traffic management is the top priority as this community grows. Dan Stack's professional abilities, along with others in Public Works, continue to help us manage numerous, and highly visible, road-construction projects and build for the future," said Public Works Director Doug Brown.

Stack is a Senior Civil Engineer with the city. He started in 1999 as a Civil Engineer I.

Since 2000, he has managed more than \$20 million of construction, been a project manager on the reconstruction on more than 15 miles of neighborhood streets, and worked with numerous home associations and neighborhood groups to improve communication and project planning.

Passages

Kenneth C. Almes, 56, former City Manager of Herington, died April 24, 2007. He served as City Manager of Herington from 2002 to 2004. His municipal career also included public works positions in Lindsborg, Halstead, and Spring Hill.

Robert Tim Buckman, 46, Macksville Police Officer, died May 8, 2007 as a result of injuries received while trying to warn residents about the devastating Greensburg tornado. He worked for the City of Macksville Police Department for five years and was a volunteer firefighter in Stafford County.

Robert H. Zieg, 63, Mayor of Valley Falls, died April 30, 2007. He had served as Mayor since 2005. His public service also included working as a chaplain for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and previously as a volunteer fireman for Meriden.