



NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND PRAIRIE PARTNERS WITH ONCOR TO SAVE MONEY

GRAND PRAIRIE, TX –The city of Grand Prairie has joined a program offered by Oncor to reduce energy use and lower energy expenditures in city buildings. Funded with federal stimulus money, the *Take A Load Off Texas* Government Facilities Program (GFP) offers technical and financial assistance at no cost to the city to help implement building efficiency improvement projects.

As part of the GFP, the city of Grand Prairie will identify its least energy-efficient facilities and develop an energy master plan to take the most effective approach toward reducing energy bills. In addition, Oncor will provide incentive checks to the city based on its documented energy savings. Incentive checks are awarded when projects are finished and the new equipment is inspected.

“The GFP will help our community by saving money and improving our buildings,” said Director of Finance Diana Ortiz. “A part of our budget that would have been used for energy bills can instead be spent on resources that will more directly benefit our residents.”

The city has contracted with McKinstry Engineering to look at what facility upgrades would be most effective in reducing the city’s use. The program involves city officials at all levels to participate in the decision-making process. Mike Foreman, Grand Prairie Assistant to the City Manager, stated this aspect of the program is “vital because it guarantees that the financial decision makers understand the long-term effects of using the equipment.”

Grand Prairie ISD has participated in a similar program sponsored by Oncor for schools since 2007 and has implemented energy efficiency upgrades in many buildings resulting in electricity reduction of almost 1 megawatt during system peak times and more than 1 million megawatt-hours annually. According to the EPA, this is equivalent to electricity use at approximately 113 homes. The district has received almost \$200,000 in incentives from Oncor for these efforts.

“Oncor is proud to offer unique programs that serve the vital needs of Texas municipalities and schools,” said Buddy Bridges, Area Manager for Oncor. “We are committed to the future of our local communities. The GFP provides comprehensive tools and incentive dollars to help cities manage their energy use so that more of their budget ends up in the community for residents.”

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