Gray Russell
Environmental Coordinator

Montclair’s designation by the U.S. EPA as a Climate Showcase Community has initiated a town-wide campaign aimed at helping residents, businesses, institutions, and the municipal offices to save money by saving energy in our homes, offices, stores, schools, houses of worship, and on the road. The campaign is called “***It’s In Our Power***”.

One successful example is that our federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant was put to good use as leverage to gain additional funding from the Board of Public Utilities’ (BPU) “Direct Install” Program. We were able to complete a $150,000 energy upgrade for five municipal buildings; 60% of the cost ($90,000) was covered by the BPU, and our 40% portion ($60,000) was paid using our EECBG funds.

Montclair’s taxpayers paid nothing for these improvements, which will lower our utility bills and save us $50,000 annually – this year, again next year, and for many years to come.

Now “***It’s In Our Power***” is reaching out to local businesses, in an attempt to help them take advantage of this generous program. In conjunction with Lime Energy, the contractor who installed the new equipment for the Township, Montclair’s office of Environmental Affairs sent flyers out to every business in the Downtown Business Improvement District.

Within a few days almost 2 dozen commercial building owners responded with inquiries about this opportunity, and Lime is now conducting on-site audits to determine which buildings are eligible for the financing incentives.

We hope that many of our local businesses can participate in a smart pr

Soon we will be reaching out to other businesses, as well as schools and houses of worship. If any residents would like further information about the “***It’s In Our Power***” Campaign, please call (973) 509-5721, email

grussell@montclairnjusa.org
, or go to
www.ourpowermontclair.org
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