

News Brief

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Northwest Michigan Council of Governments Recognizes Mesick's Energy Efficiency Efforts

NORTHWEST MI—The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) recognized the Village of Mesick for its energy efficiency initiatives to save taxpayer dollars and energy.

The award, presented at the village council's November meeting, recognizes the work of council members and its Green Energy Team to improve the energy efficiency of the village office, department of public works garage and streetlights.

The grant which provided the funding for the projects originated from the Michigan Public Service Commission to the NWMCOG, and provided the village \$40,000 for energy analysis and improvements. The improvements included a ground-source heat pump, energy efficient roof, insulation, interior lighting upgrades, and re-lamping of streetlights. The energy upgrades are expected to reduce the village's utility bills by one-third.

The grant program, managed by the NWMCOG, made similar investments to 20 local governments across the 10-county region it serves. In October, the NWMCOG received national recognition for the energy saving program by receiving an Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations.

For more information, please contact Jaclyn Sanborn at (231) 929-5046.

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Photo Caption: Back row left to right Charles Pechota, Kim Kramer, Debbie Stanton, President Bruce Howell, Joe Besaw, and Aaron Martz

Sitting left to right: David Clous and Jerry Nisbet

NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Tom White at tomwhite@nwm.com.mi.us and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5044. Check our online Media Room at: <http://nwm.org/media.asp>

The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG), founded in 1973, facilitates and manages services and programs for 10 counties in the region. These programs include Regional Planning and Community Development, Northwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, Northwest Michigan Works, Workforce Development Board, Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center Northwest Region, Hospitality Skills Alliance, the Procurement Technical Assistance Center, KAL-TEC, Healthcare Skills Alliance of Northwest Michigan, and the Regional Repository for US Census data.

Some services of NWMCOG are in direct support of the counties, some are independent services provided to the public and businesses at large. NWMCOG is able to leverage several collaborative partnerships to extend limited resources and provide economies of scale for projects that operate on a regional basis. NWMCOG's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.