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Consumers Energy to Invest More Than \$2,700,000 in Next Five Years on Energy-Efficiency Programs for its Members

- Overall energy savings by Consumers Energy's members will be enough to power 8,000 homes for one year -

Marshalltown, Iowa. The 5,000 members served by Consumers Energy who use the cooperative's energy-efficiency programs in the next five years are projected to save enough electricity to power approximately 8,000 homes for one year.

At Consumers Energy, \$2,732,003 will be invested in energy-efficiency programs for members served by the cooperative from 2010-2014, according to an Energy-Efficiency Report filed December 31, 2009, with the Iowa Utilities Board. The report was the result of an 18-month, in-depth assessment of energy-efficiency programs, which was used to set Consumers Energy's energy-efficiency goals for the next five years.

The directors, managers and staff, along with employees of an independent engineering firm, started working on the project by July 1, 2008. "At Consumers Energy we are pleased to provide a wide variety of cost-effective, energy-efficiency programs for our members to participate in from now through 2014," said Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager at Consumers Energy.

New and improved energy-efficiency programs offered by Consumers Energy will include but not be limited to: solar water heating; Energy Star® freezers, dehumidifiers, LEDs and ceiling fans; low-flow shower heads and aerators; livestock waterers and ventilations thermostat controls; swine crate heating pads; ceiling and wall insulation (low-income and existing homes available in spring of 2010); commercial Energy Star® refrigeration; outdoor LED lighting; and commercial custom incentives.

Required by Senate File 2386, passed by the 2008 Iowa General Assembly, the report shows that during the five-year period, 2010-2014, which the plan spans, the cooperative's investment in helping its members manage their energy use will result in an average annual reduction in energy use of 1.7%. This reduction is one of the most impressive of any utility in the State of Iowa.

"While Senate File 2386 focuses on the economics of energy efficiency, it is important to acknowledge that there are greenhouse gas emissions reductions associated with less electricity being produced because of energy efficiency," according to the report's executive summary.

"By participating in these cost-effective, energy-efficiency programs, cooperative members help themselves, fellow consumers and their cooperative. Our members can save money by saving energy, which enables the cooperative to control the cost of generating or buying electricity, and that benefits other members. It also helps the environment because fewer greenhouse gas emissions are being produced," states Heithoff.

Consumers Energy is a local, member-owned energy solutions cooperative specializing in energy delivery and energy management. The cooperative serves over 5,000 members and customers in six counties throughout Central Iowa: Marshall, Jasper, Polk, Tama, Story, and Hardin.