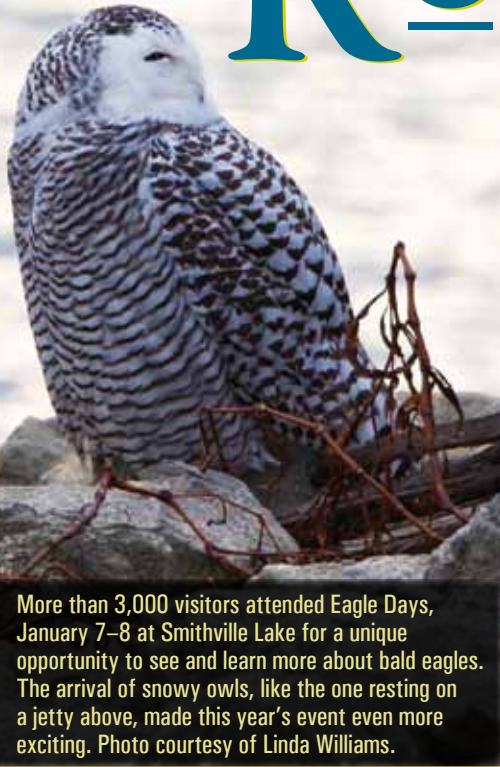


ReMARC

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More than 3,000 visitors attended Eagle Days, January 7–8 at Smithville Lake for a unique opportunity to see and learn more about bald eagles. The arrival of snowy owls, like the one resting on a jetty above, made this year's event even more exciting. Photo courtesy of Linda Williams.

Catch the next episode of Imagine KC

The ninth episode of Imagine KC will explore strategies to provide residents with a broader range of housing choices to better meet the needs of the region's changing household demographics. Tune in to KCPT at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 2, or visit imaginekc.org for more information, rebroadcast times and to watch online videos of past episodes.

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www.imaginekc.org

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HUD awards metro area 2011 Sustainable Communities grant

\$403,432 will support sustainable-development policies in local communities

On Nov. 21, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Director of Field Policy Management Patricia Hoban-Moore joined Fifth District Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II (D-MO) and the city of Mission, Kan. Mayor Laura McConwell to announce that the Mid-America Regional Council received a 2011 Sustainable Communities Grant for \$403,432.



HUD Director of Field Policy Management Patricia Hoban-Moore speaks at the Sustainable Communities grant announcement on Nov. 21.

The application was made on behalf of the First Suburbs Coalition, which is supported by MARC. The grant will allow the region to align codes and policies in participating communities to foster increased sustainable development and redevelopment.

The grant is one of 27 Sustainable Communities Grants totaling over

\$97 million announced by HUD. Another 29 regional areas are receiving Regional Planning grants. The goal of the Sustainable Communities grants is to help communities and regions improve their economic competitiveness by

continued on page 2 ▶

TIP investments planned for 2012–16

In October, MARC's Board of Directors approved the 2012–16 Transportation Improvement Program, which included more than 400 projects totaling \$1.86 billion. Through periodic calls for projects and a comprehensive evaluation process, the MARC Board and its committees guide transportation investments to advance the goals of the region's long-range transportation plan.

Every two years, MARC works with the Kansas and Missouri departments of transportation, local governments and transit agencies to develop a Transportation Improvement Program for Greater Kansas City. The TIP identifies

surface transportation investments to receive federal, state and local funds over a five-year period.

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TRACK TIP PROJECTS ONLINE

MARC has developed a new web-based tracker tool that allows people to see TIP project details, sort by various categories, and search for planned transportation projects near a specific address. The tool also offers maps and contact information for project sponsors.

Visit marc.org/transportation/tip/TIP12-16.htm

HUD grant _____ from page 1

connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation.

“The Mid-America Regional Council should be proud of the work its done over the past 10 years to be one of the communities selected for this grant because the demand is very high,” said Hoban-Moore.

“HUD Secretary Donovan has said our nation’s ability to compete in a global economy and create jobs is dependent upon how quickly and efficiently we can connect our workers and families to education and employment opportunities.”

“On behalf of the First Suburbs Coalition, we are pleased to receive this funding. It allows coalition members to create policies that will help their communities develop more sustainably. And in the long run, the whole region will be the winner,” said MARC’s Executive Director David Warm.

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MARC selects workforce development projects to support energy retrofits

The Mid-America Regional Council board of directors authorized contracts with six area organizations for seven workforce development projects aimed at increasing the region’s capacity to retrofit buildings for energy savings. MARC will use \$833,745 of the \$20 million U.S. Department of Energy grant awarded to the city of Kansas City, Mo. as part of its contract to support aspects of the EnergyWorks KC program.

The four primary objectives of EnergyWorks KC workforce development projects:

1. Develop training programs to meet the demand for workers to retrofit buildings and perform deconstruction activities.
2. Connect area education and training providers to integrate curriculum competencies, credentials and professional development activities.
3. Provide grants to workforce investment boards, community colleges and nonprofit training partners for training and job placement services.
4. Support business development and job creation in green jobs related to building retrofit projects.

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MAHS expands family services with new programs

Mid-America Head Start now offers father involvement initiative and trauma-management training series



Mid-America Head Start recognizes that strong child-parent relationships and active family involvement in Head Start programs foster better learning, growth and development. Staff encourages active family involvement in classroom activities and program planning. Parents receive personal support and learn about child development, parenting skills and how to advocate for children. This past fall, MAHS offered two new opportunities to support program staff and parents as they pursue these shared goals.

In October, MAHS hosted a Fatherhood Summit as part of its Father Involvement Team initiative to promote increased father involvement in the lives of children and the programs they attend. More than 300 fathers, mothers and staff participated in the summit, an event planned and organized by fathers as an opportunity to share how they became more involved in their children’s lives. Many said that increased father involvement benefits Head Start programs and families.

The Head Start Trauma Smart initiative trains program staff with the skills needed to help families reduce instances of conflict in the home. Participants learn positive communication techniques related to building stronger adult-child relationships and how to resolve challenging situations.

The series also makes parents and caregivers more aware of how personal history, stress and life experiences impact the family dynamic, and how to manage conflict without causing trauma in children and other family members. Courses include three training tracks — one for parents and two for staff — focused on attachment, self-regulation and competency. Due to positive response, future programs will expand to offer additional slots and development opportunities.

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Recycling Rivalry promotes waste diversion, reduction

Local government officials and staff participate in America Recycles Day events

Area communities recently held special events as part of the 2011 Recycling Rivalry, a competition among local governments organized by the MARC Solid Waste Management District for America Recycles Day on Nov. 15. The rivalry helps local governments promote recycling, reuse and waste reduction. It also increases residents' awareness of local waste-diversion services — a key objective of the district's goal to divert 80 percent of the region's waste from landfills by 2023.

In September, the city of Parkville issued a friendly challenge to the city of Riverside to see which city would have the most residents participate in recycling events for household hazardous waste, electronic waste and paper shredding.

The cities' leaders made a deal: if Riverside won, Parkville Mayor Gerry Richardson would attend a Riverside Board of Aldermen meeting and sing about his love for Riverside; Riverside



Prairie Village, Kan., Mayor Ron Shaffer competes in the Glass Recycling Challenge by using a Ripple recycling bin. (Photo courtesy of the Prairie Village Post)

Mayor Kathy Rose agreed to perform a cheer of adoration for her opponent at Parkville's Board of Aldermen meeting.

Despite Riverside's turnout of 92 residents, Parkville's 103 participants brought home the victory. Rose honored the mayors' pact and performed a cheer before the Riverside Board of Aldermen at its Nov. 15 meeting.

"I'm always willing to embarrass myself for a good cause!" Mayor Rose said.

The Prairie Village Glass Recycling Challenge was another successful ARD event. Prairie Village, Kan. Mayor Ron Shaffer challenged all area communities with Ripple Glass bins to see which one could recycle the most glass in November. Prairie Village is the region's current glass-recycling leader. Other cities that accepted the challenge were Roeland Park, Kan.; Parkville, Mo.; Shawnee, Kan.; Overland Park, Kan.; and Mission, Kan.

These are just some of the creative ways that area communities are promoting waste reduction, reuse and recycling. Such awareness efforts encourage residents to regularly take advantage of community drop-off centers, curbside recycling programs, workplace recycling, and other methods of keeping useful materials out of landfills.

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Dept. of Energy awards regional team \$450,000 to eliminate red tape and other barriers to solar power

On Dec. 1, the Dept. of Energy announced \$12 million in funding for awardees of the Rooftop Solar Challenge to spur solar power deployment. The challenge supports 22 regional teams across the nation in efforts to streamline and standardize permitting, zoning, metering and connection processes to reduce barriers and costs associated with installing residential and small commercial rooftop solar systems.

MARC is the lead agency of a regional consortium selected to receive a \$450,000 grant. The consortium includes Kansas City, Mo., and Lee's Summit, Mo.; Clay County, Mo.; Johnson County, Kan.; Olathe, Kan.; KCP&L and the Metropolitan Energy Center.

Phase 1 of the initiative will focus on permitting and interconnection

standards; metering; financing options; and planning and zoning processes. The *Solar Ready KC* grant application outlined a four-prong approach for Phase 1:

- Conduct *research* to determine current conditions and document best practices and market changes;
- Provide *education* to heighten local government officials' knowledge of solar technologies and ways to improve permitting and zoning regulations for solar installations;
- Explore and assist in the creation of *finance* mechanisms to make solar investments more attainable;
- Initiate statewide *advocacy* for improvements in net metering and interconnection standards.



In the last three years, DOE has invested more than \$66 million in the Kansas City region. As a result, the region is making significant advancements in energy efficiency and conservation.

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Solid Waste Management District presents 2011 awards

SWMD Annual Meeting recognizes notable contributions to regional waste management and recycling efforts

The MARC Solid Waste Management District held its Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on Dec. 8 at the Ennovation Center in Independence, Mo. Several individuals and organizations were recognized for making significant contributions to regional waste-management efforts in 2011.

In addition, the 14 communities that participated in the Recycling Challenge for Local Governments were commended, along with nine cities and counties, for their efforts



Several individuals, organizations and communities received awards for their efforts to improve waste management and recycling in the region.

in the “Recycling Rivalry” — a local government competition to promote waste reduction and recycling.

District staff spent much of the past year working with local governments, providing resources to increase access to and participation in key services such as curbside recycling and yard-waste reduction. The district also continues to promote sustainable solid waste management — an integrated approach to waste minimization and diversion to conserve natural resources, protect existing landfill capacity, and stimulate a “green” economy. By collaborating with public and private partners, the region is moving toward the goal of diverting 80 percent of waste from area landfills by 2023.

Key 2011 District activities:

- Hosted a series of three luncheons to give business and government representatives opportunities to network and improve waste reduction and recycling efforts. The discussions focused on recycling at work, special collections, sustainable landscaping and yard-waste management.
- Awarded \$412,000 in grant funds to support waste-reduction and recycling projects, including parks and special-event recycling initiatives, and a number of public education activities.
- Thirty-four communities participated in the Household Hazardous Waste program — now on track to exceed one million pounds collected this year at the two centers in Kansas City, Mo., and Lee’s Summit, and at 11 mobile events.

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Emergency services agencies and community partners start planning for a safe 2012 Major League All-Star Game in KC

Members of the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee are working closely with officials in Kansas City, Mo., to plan for potential emergencies during Major League Baseball’s 2012 All-Star Game, which will be held at Kauffman Stadium on July 10.

The high-profile, multiday event will bring thousands of people to Kansas City, offering a unique opportunity for local public safety officials to exercise the region’s emergency response capabilities.

At a recent tabletop exercise, city officials joined other community partners, including representatives from the Kansas City Royals and the FBI, to clarify roles and responsibilities. Leaders of the region’s law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services agencies participated as observers. A full-scale exercise, planned for spring 2012, will include additional regional partners.

While no disasters are anticipated, any large-scale emergency during the event — from tornadoes to terrorism — would impact large numbers of people and likely require response from multiple jurisdictions. Since 2003, the RHSCC has invested federal homeland security funds in training, exercises and equipment that enhance the region’s ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, using an all-hazards approach. Officials expect that plans developed for the All-Star Game will be adaptable for use in future large-venue, multiday events, and further enhancing the region’s response capabilities.



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Prestigious David A. Garcia awards recognize distinguished EMS career and environmental excellence

Two community leaders were recently honored with awards that commemorate the strong contributions to local environmental progress and regional emergency services planning made by David A. Garcia, former director of Environment and Emergency Response at MARC, who died in 1995.

Since his death, the Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue Committee has presented David A. Garcia awards for outstanding contributions to emergency medical services to a handful of individuals whose exceptional accomplishments warrant special recognition. The David A. Garcia Award for Environmental Excellence is an annual award, co-presented by MARC and Bridging The Gap, to honor individuals or local organizations that strive to address regional environmental issues through collaboration and action.

MARCER Award: Mike Hicks

In October, MARCER presented the David A. Garcia award to Michael R. Hicks in recognition of his years of outstanding support to the field

of emergency medical services in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Hicks became involved with MARCER when the committee sponsored his paramedic training in 1974, and went on to serve as the committee's chair in 1987. For the past four years, Hicks has provided staff support to the committee in his role as an emergency medical planner at MARC. His career included positions as an assistant fire chief in Lee's Summit, Mo., and fire chief of Consolidated Fire District No. 2 in northeast Johnson County, Kan.

For more than 20 years Hicks served as an instructor and trainer for emergency medical technicians and paramedics for area community colleges and other state and local agencies. He was also a medic and medical instructor in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007.

Environmental Excellence Award: Mayor Kathy Rose

Mayor Kathy Rose of Riverside, Mo., received the 2011 David Garcia Award during Bridging The Gap's Environmental Excellence Awards



Mike Hicks



Mayor Kathy Rose

ceremony in November. Rose was recognized for her efforts to create a more sustainable region and for her work supporting the MARC Solid Waste Management District's strategy to divert 80 percent of the region's waste from area landfills by 2023.

The award was presented by David Warm, MARC's executive director. "Mayor Rose is a charismatic voice and champion for recycling in the region," he said. "She is motivated, energetic and brings people together to create results — including a new image of Riverside as a sustainable, green community that engages citizens to take action."

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City Managers Coaching Program recruiting for 2012

This January, MARC kicks off the fourth year of an innovative mentoring program for city and county managers. The Managers Coaching Program pairs experienced city and county managers with aspiring managers currently in the early stages of their public service careers. In 2009, its pilot year, the program served eight mentor/protégé teams, followed by 12 pairings in 2010 and 15 in 2011.

Senior city and county managers who volunteer to serve as mentors meet regularly with their protégés, and the entire group meets twice each year at MARC. Both mentors and protégés find the experience valuable.

"At times in my career, I've needed advice or someone to talk to," said Phil Lammers, city administrator for Merriam, Kan. "This is something I can do in the later years of my career to share what I've learned with someone taking a similar career path."

Lammers works with Nolan Sunderman, economic development director for the city of Lansing, Kan. "It's very helpful to share stories and get his feedback," said Sunderman. "Phil has worked in the trenches."

For Katie Killen, assistant to the city manager in Shawnee, Kan., the program

is a good way to meet people. "I enjoy meeting people from other cities and learning from their experiences. It's interesting to learn how larger organizations work." Katie is paired with John Franklin, a longtime assistant city manager in Kansas City, Mo.

The Managers Coaching Program is a spinoff of the Managers' Roundtable, a forum that meets five times each year to exchange information, discuss important local government issues, and foster local government innovation. Apply online at marc.org/ManagersCoaching

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Meet the MARC Board

The MARC Board of Directors is made up of 33 elected officials from the nine counties and six largest cities governing the MARC region. This issue features members from Clay County, Mo.

GREG CANUTESON is in his second term as mayor of Liberty, Mo., and joined the MARC Board in June 2009. Canuteson has lived in Liberty most of his life and first entered public service as the 34th District state representative in 1992. He was re-elected in 1994. After completing his second term in Jefferson City, Canuteson started his own law firm, practicing business and real estate law in an office located on the historic downtown square in the heart of Liberty.



Greg Canuteson

PAM MASON was elected Clay County presiding commissioner in 2010, and joined the MARC Board in January 2011. Prior to entering public service, she was a securities industry representative and a bank investment officer. Mason also represents Clay County on the Economic Development Council Board, Economic Development Council Executive Branch, the Northland Regional Chamber Board, and on MARC's Budget and Personnel Committee. She is active in her church as a Sunday school teacher.



Pam Mason

Staff Notes

JACQUI MOORE was recognized at the October MARC Board meeting for reaching a very significant milestone in her career. Jacqui, MARC's director of Aging Services, has contributed 40 years of valuable service to the MARC region.

CINDY TERRYBERRY and **AMY JACOBY** have each worked at MARC for 10 years. Cindy is the nutrition services coordinator for the Aging Services Department. Amy is MARC's receptionist. Cindy and Amy were recognized at the November MARC Board meeting by David Warm and MARC Board Chair Jim Schultz for their contributions to the agency.

Changes and Promotions

KASSIE SHELTON

Environmental Planner to Sustainability Planner III

LIZ SMITH

Child Health and Development Manager to Mid-America Head Start Program Director

Earthquake Drill — Feb. 7

MARC will join local governments, businesses and residents in the Great Central U.S. Shakeout Drill, scheduled for 10:15 a.m. on Feb. 7, 2012, to practice emergency procedures for earthquakes. Learn more about how you can participate at www.shakeout.org/centralus.

Two projects help Missouri "Clean-Up" and "Breathe Easy"

MARC is the local administrator for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (MDNR) Clean-Up MO and Breathe Easy projects. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded funding to MDNR from a 2011 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant through a national competition.

Under the Clean-Up MO Project, three school districts retrofitted 77 school buses with fuel-operated heaters, allowing drivers to heat the interior of the bus and clear frost from the windows without running the engine. Seventy-three of the buses also received closed crankcase ventilation systems. These systems capture emissions from the engine crankcase and reroute the air to the engine air intake, reducing the amount of emissions going into the atmosphere.

This project also funded the replacement of one of Lee's Summit School District's outdated buses that no longer met emissions standards. The new bus is compliant with 2010 emissions standards.

The Missouri Breathe Easy Project helped Burlington Northern Santa Fe retrofit five switch-engine locomotives with automatic engine shutdown and startup devices. These devices turn off the main engine after a predetermined period of idling, but can restart the engine to recharge batteries or maintain climate controls. The Breathe Easy Project also replaced the engine on one of APAC Kansas City's construction loaders with a new engine that meets 2010 emission standards.

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New sidewalks and curbs in the Green Impact Zone



The above photos show progress made on a section of sidewalk at 43rd Street and Paseo Boulevard in Kansas City, Mo.

This fall, construction crews replaced crumbling sidewalks, curbs and driveway approaches in the Green Impact Zone in Kansas City, Mo. The improvements were funded by a \$50 million federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant awarded to the region in 2010.

The city of Kansas City, Mo., hired several contractors to repair and replace upheaved and missing sidewalk infrastructure within the zone along Paseo Boulevard, 39th Street, 43rd Street, 51st Street, Troost Avenue, Prospect Avenue, Emanuel Cleaver II Boulevard, Benton Boulevard and Swope Parkway.

“There’s a lot of long-term impact in these people having decent sidewalks and streets to walk on,” said Bill Bushey, owner of Alliance Concrete, a subcontractor on one of the sidewalk projects.

Bushey’s 11 crew members were unemployed before the project began, so he sees firsthand how TIGER-funded improvements impact the local economy, from the concrete suppliers and layers, to the truck drivers. “It’s amazing how it spreads out,” he said.

The new sidewalks and curb ramps have made a difference to elderly resident Judith Ewing. “It’s much safer and my mind is at ease knowing that I can walk to the stores now without the thought of stubbing my foot or falling,” said Ewing.

In total, TIGER will fund \$26.2 million to upgrade infrastructure in the Green Impact Zone. Other projects planned for 2012:

- Transit-stop improvements
- Traffic-signal upgrades
- Street resurfacing
- More sidewalk and curb projects
- Pedestrian bridge under Troost Avenue Bridge

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Learn about the TIGER grant and watch videos of progress at marc.org/TIGER

GOVERNMENT TRAINING INSTITUTE

Computer Skills

- Jan. 25..... Advanced Excel
- Jan. 26..... Office 2010: Where’s My Menu?
- Jan. 30..... Intermediate Excel
- Marc 6 Fundamentals of Access 2010

Customer Service

- Jan. 24..... Understanding Yourself and Others
- Jan. 31..... Unbeatable Customer Service
- Jan. 31..... Fantastic Fixers
- Feb. 7 Serving Diverse Customers
- Feb. 28..... Image Essentials
- Feb. 28..... Personal Accountability

Supervisory

- Jan. 26..... Creative Planning and Problem Solving
- Feb. 2 Developing and Communicating Performance Standards
- Feb. 2-3..... Advanced Supervision and Management
- Feb. 9 Counseling for Improved Performance
- Feb.16..... Dynamic Delegation
- Feb. 23..... Riding the Rollercoaster of Change
- March 1..... Conflict Management: Managing Yourself & Improving Your Skills

Workforce Development

- Feb. 22..... Parliamentary Procedure
- Feb. 22..... Successfully Managing GIS in Your Organization
- Feb. 29..... Effective Business Writing

PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING

- Jan. 24..... 9-1-1 Liability
- Jan. 26..... Refresher GeoLynx
- Feb. 2 TICP Overview/RAMBIS
- Feb. 6-10..... Basic Telecommunicator Training
- Feb. 14..... 9-1-1 Customer Service
- Feb. 15..... Mo-TERT Basic Awareness for Deployment
- Feb. 16..... 9-1-1 Equipment and TTY Training
- Feb. 16..... 9-1-1 Public Outreach Volunteer Orientation
- Feb. 21-22..... Basic Fire Communications
- Feb. 23..... Professional Development Series: From Buddy to Boss

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Feb. 25..... IS 700: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System

Find complete training calendars online or call for more information:

www.marc.org • 816/474-4240

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MARC serves as the association of city and county governments and the metropolitan planning organization for the bistate Kansas City region.

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Local Sustainable Success Stories honored

The Academy for Sustainable Communities honored seven local projects at the fourth annual Sustainable Success Stories event on Dec. 2.

Representatives from each project spoke about their successes and the challenges they overcame to achieve sustainable outcomes ranging from locally grown food to energy conservation.

Three years ago, the MARC Board of Directors adopted a vision of sustainability to guide the next generation of regional policy and planning work. The vision seeks to “create and support a sustainable region that increases the vitality of our society, economy and environment for current residents and future generations.” Sharing local successes and challenges in this forum enables community partners to learn about and replicate locally tailored, high-impact sustainability practices in their own communities.

This year’s program focused on projects that advance energy-efficiency and conservation objectives within a broader sustainability framework.

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2011 HONOREES

- ✔ **Clothesline Sale**
Pembroke Hill School Parents Association
- ✔ **Energy Conservation and Education**
Eudora Unified School District 491
- ✔ **Geothermal Project/Energy Conservation Measures**
City of Prairie Village
- ✔ **Grown in Ivanhoe**
Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council
- ✔ **Project Living Proof**
Metropolitan Energy Center
- ✔ **ReStore**
Habitat for Humanity Kansas City
- ✔ **Sustainability in Action**
University of Missouri – Kansas City