



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REAP PROGRAM CAN OFFSET COSTS FOR ATCHISON AREA BUSINESSES

Speaker will inform area companies about grant money available

ATCHISON, Kan. (Nov. 10, 2008) — Atchison area businesses seeking to become more environmentally friendly or those simply interested in improving the infrastructure of their buildings now have the opportunity to gain financial support toward those efforts. Business owners interested in more information can attend an informational seminar at 9 a.m. Nov. 22 in the Visitor Information Center at the Santa Fe Depot. The event is co-sponsored by the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce and the Atchison County Economic Development Board.

Federal grants are now available to farmers and small business owners through the USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). These grants assist farmers and small business owners in making energy improvements or in producing renewable energy.

The program is available to virtually any business in any city having a population of less than 50,000. This includes businesses from local retail stores, grocery stores and insurance agencies to banks and medical practices, and many others. The applicant can receive a grant, which will pay for 25 percent of the cost of many improvements, including new windows, a new furnace, new air conditioning, new lighting, new insulation, or nearly anything that will save energy.

The State of Kansas, which hopes to see all businesses take advantage of these programs, has contracted Gary Hogsett to provide seminars to assist those businesses interested in applying for grants. He will speak to Atchison area business owners during the Nov. 22 seminar.

Hogsett is a nationally known speaker, who has entertained crowds all over North America. He has spoken at the World Energy Engineering Congress seven times and has won first place in nine Humorous Speaking contests sponsored by Toastmaster International. In addition to his talent for speaking, Hogsett is also an expert on energy.

He has two engineering degrees in energy management and 25 years experience in the field. Hogsett has provided energy analysis studies for more than 1,000 buildings and is currently the president of the KC Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers.

The mission of the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce is to focus on the quality of life, attraction, growth and retention of jobs and businesses in Atchison County. Established in 1919, the Chamber continues to be the leading business organization of the community. With the support of over 400 member investors, the Chamber delivers programs and services that make our community a better place to live, work, raise a family and visit.

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For more information about the seminar or to schedule an interview or photo opportunity, please call Jacque Pregont at 913-367-2427 or 800-234-1854, or e-mail Jacque at president@atchisonkansas.net.