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SUBJECT: Energy Efficiency Rebates Expiring Soon for Duluth Residents and Landlords

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Energy Efficiency Rebates Expiring Soon for Duluth Residents and Landlords

[Duluth, MN] – The Duluth Energy Efficiency Program (DEEP) announced today that rebates will be expiring in mid-July for energy efficiency upgrades. DEEP rebates of up to \$2,500 for single family homes and up to \$10,000 for multifamily properties are provided through the Stimulus Act to the City of Duluth. Rebates help Duluth residents make improvements to reduce high energy bills and increase comfort in their homes.

"The DEEP rebate program has been a huge success, helping hundreds of Duluth homeowners make energy improvements and save money. I encourage others to take advantage of these funds while the opportunity is still there," said Mayor Don Ness.

The DEEP program utilizes home performance audits to identify improvements that will save the most energy and money. DEEP also provides personalized assistance and support to help participants prioritize improvements, find reputable contractors for their job, and identify all applicable rebates and loans offered by DEEP and local utility companies. DEEP rebates are available to all income levels.

DEEP has helped more than 350 Duluth homeowners complete energy improvements in the last year and has created an investment of more than \$1.4 million in Duluth's housing stock.

Participants have received over \$300,000 in rebates and the average participant is now saving \$518 per year on their energy bill. "Our process has become a national model because the work is completed correctly and we make it easy for the homeowner," shares Sarah Hannigan, DEEP Program Director. "DEEP participation starts with just one call."

Woodland residents Bob and Kay Stevens were pleased about the extent to which DEEP helped them navigate their insulating and air sealing project. "To have DEEP help with the contracting process was a pretty big incentive to get involved with the program."

DEEP also offers a Do-It Yourself track to help homeowners successfully complete energy improvements on their own. DIYer's can take advantage of free insulating and air sealing workshops, discounts on energy efficiency materials from local retailer partners and

post-improvement assessments from DEEP's energy audit team.

Due to DEEP's success, the City of Duluth was selected as an Environmental Protection Agency Climate Showcase Community. Jodi Slick, CEO of Ecolibrium3, the local nonprofit administering the DEEP Program states, "This national recognition ensures that DEEP will continue to provide energy efficiency services and resources beyond the sunset of the ARRA funds, however, now is the time for building owners to maximize incentives."

The types of improvements eligible for DEEP rebates include air sealing, insulation upgrades, and furnace, boiler, and water heater replacements. Information about securing DEEP rebates is available at duluthenergy.org or by calling 218-336-1038.

Program funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Minnesota Department of Commerce through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the City of Duluth's Community Development Block Grant Program.

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