

Media Release from Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL), (GSE) Georgians for Smart Energy, HTSEnterprises/Center for Sustainable Communities, the Ochs Center, and Fall-line Alliance for a Clean Environment

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New Jobs, Savings for Businesses, Churches, and Households Shared by Middle Georgia Business and Church Leaders

SANDERSVILLE—Today Middle Georgia business leaders, elected officials, and church leaders met with state and national experts on energy efficiency and job creation to discuss innovative ways businesses, churches, and families can save money and energy through energy efficiency and conservation.

“Local congregations are getting Energy Audits that identify ways they can reduce energy costs for their churches,” said Reverend Alexis Chase, executive director of Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL). The money these faith communities are saving on their energy bills is being used to advance their mission and fund outreach programs.

Lori Quillen, a Policy Analyst with the Ochs Center discussed new research findings comparing jobs created by energy efficiency and new coal fired power plants. The research found that the projected jobs for coal fired power plants fell short of the number promised by developers. More jobs were developed in fields related to energy efficiency, and those jobs were less expensive to develop. Our analysis has shown that new coal plant construction is rarely the economic panacea proclaimed by its proponents.”

Gary Harris, an energy industry professional with HTS Enterprises/Center for Sustainable Communities shared his experience in developing sustainable jobs that could be brought to the Sandersville area via energy efficiency. “Rural communities have particular workforce and education issues that must be addressed to train students and current residents for the new energy jobs.”

HTS Enterprises’ customer base includes Fortune 500 companies such as Wal-Mart and Marriott and boasts partnerships with a consortium of energy producers and experts working together to promote energy efficiency for a cleaner environment, a more prosperous economy, and a higher quality of life in the Southeast. The Center for Sustainable Communities infuses best practices from a sustainability perspective into primarily at risk and disadvantaged communities.

“Creating greener cities will enhance and improve our workforce, and develop sustainable jobs for our children and grandchildren.” Harris emphasized. Another benefit of these types of jobs is that there is significantly reduced impact on the local environment, resulting in a healthier place to raise a family and retire.

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