



LOCAL ENERGY'S FIRST LEAP AWARD!

Presented to: Saint Elizabeth Shelter's Sonrisa Apartments

Saint Elizabeth Shelter became the first recipient of Local Energy's LEAP award, and received improvements to their hot-water and lighting systems designed to save them more than \$1000 per year on utility bills. The award included a new solar hot-water system designed to provide about 75 percent of the energy needed to heat water at Sonrisa Apartments, and replacement of all incandescent light bulbs at the site with compact fluorescent bulbs.

The solar hot-water heating system includes four 4' x 8' solar collectors mounted on the roof, two 40-gallon hot-water storage tanks in an insulated shed, and all of the sensors and electrical equipment needed for fully automated operation. The solar-heated water is expected to carry about 75 percent of the hot-water heating load at Sonrisa, and will cut their natural gas bills by about \$550 per year. Properly maintained, the system has a 30-year life expectancy. Cedar Mountain Solar in Santa Fe donated installation, and has offered a discounted maintenance contract to Sonrisa Apartments.

The utility cost savings generated by the system could increase significantly if natural gas prices continue rising. Santa Fe residents have seen a 95 percent increase in the cost of gas over the last five years, and prices are expected to rise even further. If the current trend continues, the total savings to Saint Elizabeth over the system's 30-year life could exceed \$220,000.



Employees of Cedar Mountain Solar hoist hot-water collectors to the roof of Sonrisa Apartments. The system will save the Saint Elizabeth Shelter \$550 per year on heating bills.



As the solar hot-water system was being installed, six student volunteers from Monte del Sol Charter School in Santa Fe replaced all of the incandescent bulbs at the Sonrisa Apartments with more efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. The volunteers first received a lesson on the benefits of compact fluorescents, including the expected energy savings and cost savings they create, and then were given informational pamphlets to pass out to Sonrisa's tenants. In addition to the 89 bulbs installed by the volunteers, 33 spare bulbs were left with Neal Windham, Sonrisa's project manager, to ensure that the savings continue when bulbs need to be replaced.

Compact fluorescent bulbs use 15-watts to produce the light output of a 60-watt bulb, and have an expected life of 8,000 hours. The switch to compact fluorescents is expected to save Sonrisa about \$470 per year in electricity costs, and reduce emissions of CO₂ by more than 5½ tons per year.

If you would like to become a LEAP volunteer or donor, contact Pattie Ravenheart at Local Energy at 982-9800. For information on the St. Elizabeth Shelter and their programs, contact Charee Lord, Executive Director, at 982-6611.

Saint Elizabeth Shelter Project Collaborators:

Local Energy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization helping communities become more energy self-reliant. Other projects include: a study of the economic and environmental benefits of installing a biomass-fired district energy system in downtown Santa Fe; design of a biomass-fired district energy system for the Santa Fe Community College; development and teaching of continuing-education curriculum in sustainable energy at SFCC; and development of an AAS degree program at SFCC. Contact: Pattie Ravenheart, Operations Manager (505) 982-9800 ext. 22.

Saint Elizabeth's Shelter has been serving homeless individuals and families in Santa Fe and in the surrounding rural New Mexico counties for over 19 years. The Shelter is dedicated to helping homeless individuals live more productive, stable and satisfying lives. Contact: Charee Lord, Director (505) 982-6611

McCune Charitable Foundation provides grants that enrich the cultural life, health, education, environment, and spiritual life of the citizens of New Mexico. Contact: Wendy Lewis (983-8300)

Dankoff Solar Products is a manufacturer of solar water pumps and a wholesale distributor of components for solar electric power (PV), solar heating and wind electric systems. Contact: Paul Benson, President (505) 473-3800

Cedar Mountain Solar provides design, consultant and project management services for solar hot water, solar radiant floor, and remote power systems. Contact: Boaz Soifer (505) 474-5445 www.cedarmountainsolar.com

R.C. Greene & Co. is a general contractor specializing in custom-built homes, serving Santa Fe and its surrounding communities for over 30 years. Contact: Bart Kaltenabach (505) 982-1970

Althouse, Inc. insulates homes and buildings with 100% recycled cellulose insulation, which reduces energy bills, CO2 emissions, fire risk and sound transmission. Contact: Bill Althouse (505) 469-7480

Dahl Plumbing is the premier distributor of plumbing, heating, mechanical and industrial products in the Rocky Mountain Region with one of the largest inventories of plumbing goods in Northern New Mexico. Contact: Buck Saunders (505) 471-1811

Big Jo True Value Hardware, Inc. has been serving the Santa Fe community since 1925, carrying every day common items as well as hard to find items. Contact: Jessica C'de Baca (505) 473-2255

Samon's Electric and Plumbing is both a retail and wholesale supplier and has been serving Santa Fe for over 27 years. Contact: Al Trujillo (505) 471-2223



LOCAL ENERGY PROGRAMS

“LEAP”

The Local Energy Assistance Program

Local Energy developed the *Local Energy Assistance Program* (LEAP) to help reduce the burden of high utility bills on low-income residents and nonprofit organizations in Santa Fe.

LEAP seeks to achieve this goal by providing products and services designed to reduce energy bills. Examples of a typical LEAP award would include energy efficiency measures such as upgraded insulation and high-efficiency lighting, but also installation of systems that use locally available energy resources like solar, wind, and biomass.

In keeping with Local Energy’s mission to help the Santa Fe community become more self-reliant in energy, the LEAP program is carried out in partnership with local energy suppliers. Dankoff Solar Products provided a \$10,000 donation of solar-heating equipment to start the program. Cedar Mountain Solar, another Local Energy member company, has agreed to donate solar design and installation services to LEAP award recipients. Althouse Inc., Big Jo True Value Hardware, Dahl Plumbing, Joel Olson Plumbing & Heating LLC, R.C. Greene & Co., and Samon’s Electric and Plumbing have donated equipment and services to the program. Volunteer assistance was donated by students from the Monte del Sol Charter School.

LEAP is very different from the federal government’s Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in that most LIHEAP funding is used to pay utility bills. Under LEAP, program resources are used to make community investments that reduce utility bills. The LEAP program therefore redirects utility dollars, which tend to leave the community, to local energy companies working to increase Santa Fe’s energy self-reliance. This creation of community-based self-reliance is the core mission of Local Energy.



First LEAP award recipient: Saint Elizabeth Shelter’s Sonrisa Apartments

utility bills – money that can now be used to help homeless individuals and families in Santa Fe and its neighboring communities.

With the assistance of our local energy business partners and the McCune Foundation, Saint Elizabeth Shelter became the first recipient of a LEAP award in December, 2004. The award included a new solar hot-water system designed to provide about 75 percent of the energy needed to heat water at Sonrisa Apartments, and replacement of all incandescent light bulbs at the site with compact fluorescent bulbs. The two improvements are expected to save more than \$1000 per year on

If you would like to become a LEAP volunteer or donor, contact Pattie Ravenheart at Local Energy at 982-9800. For information on the St. Elizabeth Shelter and their programs, contact Charee Lord, Executive Director, at 982-6611.