



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Investments in Energy Efficiency Keep Milwaukee Businesses Strong

Me² Program helps broad cross-section of Milwaukee Businesses

Milwaukee – At an event today at a south side factory, Mayor Tom Barrett encouraged investments in energy efficient upgrades as a means to keeping Milwaukee businesses competitive. The [Milwaukee Energy Efficiency \(Me²\) program](#), a City of Milwaukee program funded by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, supports energy efficiency investments through a combination of grants and innovative financing options. Energy efficiency projects supported through Me² and private investment save money, energy, help to protect the environment, and create local jobs. The program is available to nearly all businesses located in the City of Milwaukee.

“We are improving competitiveness in Milwaukee from the inside out, building by building. The Me² program provides important resources to any property owner that wants to invest in energy saving improvements,” Mayor Barrett said. “This is a time to make the kind of long-term investments that create jobs now while cutting energy bills for years to come.”

To date, the Me² program has approved sixty-seven business projects at a broad cross-section of Milwaukee businesses, including downtown offices, factories, gas stations, laundries, condominiums, and health care facilities. The Me² program has awarded \$1.7-million of grants that has stimulated \$7.4-million of business investment. Thirty-nine local private sector commercial energy efficiency contractors are available to make the energy saving improvements, and are committed to employing local workers.

One business, Wisconsin Knitwear at 1111 W Lincoln Ave, has received lighting upgrades through a grant from the Me² program that paid 60% of the project costs. Owner, Steve Arenzon said, “Wisconsin Knitwear is Milwaukee’s only remaining headwear manufacturer. Cutting our energy bills is important to help keep our business competitive and the improved lights improve the conditions for our workers. We are so pleased with the Me² program, we now looking to replace our heating system.”

Mayor Barrett urged businesses to take advantage of the Me² program as part of National Energy Action Month. President Barack Obama declared October [Energy Action Month](#) declaring that, “A secure energy future is vital to an economy built to last.” In July, Mayor Barrett urged downtown businesses to join the national [Better Buildings Challenge](#), in which participating businesses agree to cut their energy use by 20% by the year 2020. Since July, six major office buildings have accepted the challenge, including the US Bank Building, 100 East Wisconsin, Wells Building, City Center, BMO Harris Bank headquarters, and One Park Plaza.

The Me² Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Better Buildings Program. The program is administered City of Milwaukee Office of Environmental Sustainability in partnership with the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation. For more information, please contact, Erick Shambarger with the Milwaukee Office of Environmental Sustainability at: eshamb@milwaukee.gov or 414-708-9187. For more Me² Program information, visit www.smartenergypays.com/businesses.

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