Go Green expands to Chestnut Hill and North Nashville, engaging Habitat for Humanity, Vanderbilt, and more partners

Go Green Nashville and Nashville Energy Works (NEW) of the Mayor's Office are working with professor James Fraser and his graduate students from Vanderbilt University on a weatherization effort in the Chestnut Hill Neighborhood. Working with Habitat for Humanity, and their 'Brush with Kindness' campaign, the plan is the weatherize the owner/occupied homes in this lower income neighborhood at no cost to the residents.

The plan, which includes geographical mapping from the Vanderbilt group, and the expertise from Habitat, and support from Councilwoman Sandra Moore, will work with neighborhood business owners, Habitat volunteers, and other interested parties, to identify interested homeowners, and to engage them such that they will save significant energy in their homes.

NES, Nashville Electric Service, with TVA, the Tennessee Valley Authority, will provide free energy evaluations, which will provide a framework for weatherization. Habitat for Humanity will help to organize the volunteers, and will manage contributions for this effort.

Go Green Nashville originated from ULI Nashville's Sustainability Committee, which started a neighborhood campaign, Go Green District 18, in November, 2009. This program then leveraged to other neighborhoods, in different Council Districts, and spawned other community based campaigns, including 'Green to the Core, District 24', 'District 6, Energy Fix', and 'Energy Heaven in District 7'. The Mayor's Office picked up the campaign in 2011, and Go Green Nashville is now a community outreach group of NEW, Nashville Energy Works.

The program to date has resulted in 4,117 in-home energy evaluations and 2,037 implementations. \$7.97 million dollars have been invested by homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient!

In an effort to bring this program to households with greater need, the Chestnut Hill initiative was conceived. It looks to be gaining broad support from a number of private, public, and non-profit entities, and could create a blueprint for on-going efforts.