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**OAQDA Authorizes Financing of Energy Efficiency Overhaul of Pickaway County  
Government Buildings**

***\$3,115,000 to be used to retrofit county buildings***

Columbus, OH -- Pickaway County will retrofit county government buildings with a variety of energy efficiency and conservation systems and measures following the first award of funding to an Ohio county from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (QECB).

The retrofitting project is possible thanks to \$3,115,000 in bonds issued by the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA), which administers the QECB program. The bonds combine the benefits of QECB and Recovery Zone bonds.

The OAQDA financing will assist in the installation of numerous retrofits, including lighting system upgrades, retro-commissioning of mechanical and electrical infrastructure, building automation and control retrofits, water conservation measures, renewable energy conservation measures and other systems. A comprehensive study of energy consumption identified improvements to be made at all county facilities, with the majority of the work focused on the Courthouse, County Jail and Service Center.

When complete, the new energy conservation measures will help Pickaway County cut annual utility bills by \$117,152, or 23.75 percent. In addition, the new facilities will help avoid the annual emission of greenhouse gases by 1,051 tons, or the carbon dioxide equivalent of 15 percent.

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“We are very pleased that OAQDA can assist Pickaway County on our first-ever financing for an air quality project at the county government level in Ohio. This is a genuine ‘win’ for all Ohio taxpayers and particularly those who live in the county. The project is the latest in a long line of financing measures OAQDA has authorized to help other public offices and facilities around Ohio in cutting energy costs and hazardous emissions,” said Mark R. Shanahan, OAQDA executive director and the Governor’s energy advisor.

The Pickaway County Courthouse is more than 120 years old and in need of major mechanical updates. The Courthouse boiler system currently operates at no better than 50 percent efficiency, according to Pickaway County Maintenance Superintendent Dave Conrad. The upgrades also will enable the county to renegotiate the maintenance contracts for its energy systems, resulting in additional annual savings to taxpayers of at least \$40,000.

“This project will address a large number of needs and fixes that, in some cases, are decades old. The OAQDA financing package using federal stimulus dollars, combined with an accompanying allocation of Recovery Zone Bonds from the Ohio Department of Development, will allow Pickaway County to save more than \$600,000 compared to traditional borrowing methods. This is an historic opportunity for the county to become more environmentally responsible, keep financing costs to a minimum, cut energy costs and improve the workplace for our county employees and the public,” said County Commissioner Jay Wippel, board president.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Through its Ohio Coal Development Office, OAQDA also oversees the State of Ohio’s coal research, development and technology deployment efforts. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$7 billion to finance air quality projects. In addition, the OAQDA executive director was appointed the Governor’s energy advisor in January 2007. Subsequently, in 2008, OAQDA was named as administering authority for the \$150 million Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Program. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at [www.ohioairquality.org](http://www.ohioairquality.org).