

## The City Council Makes Its Strongest Commitment in History To Energy Efficiency and Development of a Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Plan for New Orleans

News Release

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Council Utility Regulatory  
Authority

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**New Orleans, LA - December 6, 2007** - The City Council has passed a resolution making its strongest commitment in its history to energy efficiency and the development of a comprehensive and viable energy efficiency plan for New Orleans.

The resolution calls for continued work through the Council Utility Committee to develop city policies to ensure robust energy efficiency practices; the integration of energy efficiency into energy resource plans at the utility and regulatory level; and providing sufficient, timely, and stable program funding to deliver energy efficiency where cost-effective.

Council Utility Committee Chairman, District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura, is encouraged about the direction the city is taking citing this resolution and the City Council's unqualified support of the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency and the Vision for 2025.

### ***Implementation of a Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Plan***

The implementation of a comprehensive energy efficiency plan could have far reaching impact on the citizens of New Orleans. Consider these recent statistics. According to some estimates, making cost-effective energy efficiency resources available to the public may assist in meeting fifty percent or more of the expected energy load growth nationally. This could yield energy bill savings of over \$100 billion annually by 2025. Energy savings exceeding 900 billion kilowatts/hour, the equivalent to over 50 gigawatts of power (or more than 100 500 megawatt power plants) over 20 years could result in over \$500 billion of total net savings, as well as reductions in greenhouse gas emissions on the order of 500 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. This is the equivalent of 90 billion cars off the road.

### ***Council Utility Regulatory Authority***

The Council of the City of New Orleans is the governmental body with the power of supervision, regulation and control over public utilities providing service within the City of New Orleans. Additionally, this authority gives the Council direct responsibility for fixing and changing rates and charges of public utilities and making all necessary rules and regulations to govern rates, terms and conditions of utility service in the City of New Orleans.

### **New Orleans City Council**

The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of New Orleans City government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council also approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The City Council is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; Council District "A" Shelley Midura; Council District "B" Stacy S. Head; Council District "C" James Carter; Council District "D" Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and Council District "E" Cynthia Willard-Lewis.