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## **DELEG Announces Completion of Energy Efficiency Project in Meridian Township "Turn on the Lights" Ceremony 5:30 p.m. on Thursday in Okemos to kick off LED energy savings**

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**January 12, 2011** - Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth Acting Director Andrew S. Levin today announced that Meridian Township has successfully completed installation of 25 LED lights in the Meridian Township Downtown Development Authority (commonly referred to as Downtown Okemos), located along Okemos and Hamilton Roads.

Meridian Township will hold a "Turn on the Lights" lighting ceremony this Thursday, January 13 to commemorate the integration of the lights into the community. The ceremony will be held at 5:30pm in front of the Douglas J. Spa on Hamilton Road in Okemos. The township received \$50,000 awarded by DELEG as part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

"Meridian Township residents are getting brighter and safer streets at a lower cost thanks to this grant from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program," said DELEG Acting Director Andrew S. Levin. "The EECBG program is designed to assist smaller communities become more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable. We applaud the Meridian Township leaders for their environmental stewardship and for saving taxpayer dollars."

The 96-watt LED fixtures are expected to use 59% less energy than conventional incandescent fixtures would have, amounting to an annual \$755 savings. The longer lifecycle of the lights will also reduce maintenance costs.

Paul Brake, Downtown Development Authority Executive Director, commented, "The Meridian Township Board is committed to saving energy and reducing carbon emissions to help protect the environment. The township is now one step closer to reaching its goals of sustainability through the energy savings from these LED lights."

Brake also noted that township residents have expressed interest in getting new street lights in the area for years. In June 2008, participants at a community vision forum desired more energy efficient amenities, such as street lights, that were aesthetically pleasing and encouraged a more walkable community. The lights installed in this project will satisfy all of those requirements.

The state Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). DELEG's Bureau of Energy Systems (BES) awarded the EECBG grants to projects that will create and retain jobs, save energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Michigan has obligated \$17.6 million to 128 EECBG funded projects across the state. Designed to assist smaller communities, these projects support energy efficiency measures such as replacing high-energy systems in municipal buildings and street lighting, creating or expanding community recycling programs, and installing small-scale renewable energy generating systems.

State EECBG grant awards generally range from \$50,000 to \$140,000 for single cities, townships, or villages and up to \$650,000 for single counties and multi-jurisdictional recipients. BES requires award winners to collect, track, and report data on energy savings, costs savings, and job creation. To see the full list of selected projects and funding amounts, visit the BES website: [www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice).

For more information about DELEG, please visit [www.michigan.gov/deleg](http://www.michigan.gov/deleg). Follow DELEG at <http://twitter.com/MIDELEG> visit the "DELEG" page on Facebook and Become a Fan or visit the Michigan Government channel on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/michigangovernment>

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