



**Detroiters Working for
Environmental Justice**
Fostering Clean, Healthy and Safe Communities

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Contact: Nick Dodge, Byrum & Fisk Communications, (517) 333-1606

Detroit residents jazzed about their future retrofitting local housing while reducing greenhouse gasses

*Detroit Smart Neighborhood Program is about learning skills, saving
money and helping the environment*

DETROIT – On Wednesday, June 29, participants in the **Detroit Smart Neighborhood Training Pilot Program** enjoyed remarks from a panel of experts and businesses who value what the innovative program provides not just for the participants but for the neighborhoods in which they live and work.

“An initiative of the Detroit Climate Action Collaborative, which is leading the development of Detroit’s first Climate Action Plan, the Smart Neighborhood Program teaches low-income residents how to weatherize low-income housing for the benefit of low-income people,” said **Kimberly Hill Knott**, director of policy for **Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice** and project director for the **Detroit Climate Action Collaborative**. “Our intention is threefold: local residents learn a marketable skill; they then retrofit homes so that residents save money and energy; and in the process we lower greenhouse gas emissions in our community. This in turn, moves us closer to our shared goal of a sustainable Detroit.”

The career development panel included **Kevin McNeeley** of **McNeeley Building Group**, **Stephen Christensen** of **DeCiBeL** and energy representatives from **Strawberry Solar**, **Southwest Housing Solutions** and the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**. The event took place at **NextEnergy**, a Detroit nonprofit committed to bringing together new technologies, industry players and public and private investment capital.

The Detroit Smart Neighborhood Training Program is sponsored by a broad partnership of organizations, education institutions and businesses, including Southwest Housing Solutions, Lawrence Technological University, McNeeley Building Group, the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment and IMHOTEP. For a full list of partners and additional information about the Detroit Smart Neighborhood Program, contact Leila Mekias at 313-720-5624 or Leila@dwej.org.

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