Our Greener Home Energy Toolkit: DIY Home Energy Solutions for Johnson City, TN

Executive Summary

Overview - This project is the creation of a toolkit that will include essential items and a workbook to allow residents of Johnson City and the surrounding areas to participate in “Do It Yourself” (DIY) energy-efficient upgrades around their homes, whether they rent or own. Included in the toolkit will be several items that the user can keep for themselves, such as lightbulbs, faucet aerators, and weather-stripping material. There will also be items that need to be returned to the library after a specified amount of time, such as light meters, thermometers, and water and energy testing equipment, as well as a workbook with tips and tricks explaining how to perform energy and water efficiency checks around the home.

The Problem Scale and Scope - Tennessee residents use more energy at home than almost every other state in the United States. This project seeks to bring this amount down so that the people in the community will use less energy and pay less for the energy they consume annually. This project seeks to bring education to the residents of Eastern Tennessee and permanently lower the energy use in this community by creating better habits.

Urgency and Timeline - This project is undergoing final preparations and will begin distribution before the end of 2020. A website is under development and the workbook and materials for the toolkits are being fabricated and gathered. This project helps to fulfill sustainable development goal number seven, which is “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy”, and goal number four, “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” Because these goals have a deadline of 2030, it is important to get started on projects that will fulfill their needs.

Strategy and Solution - This project is based on prototypes that have had success in other regions in the United States. There is a similar energy use toolkit program in place in San Jose, California that has expanded to more than thirty public libraries and they are seeing success as a result. By implementing a similar strategy here but adapting it to the needs of this community, this area will reap the same benefits as other programs.