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James Harrison  
Asheville Citizen-Times  
Press release re: Asheville GO and Conservation Pros

## Abstract:

Asheville Green Opportunities is teaming up with Conservation Pros to conduct a comprehensive Energy Audit of the American Red Cross building at 100 Edgewood Road, in Asheville.

The Asheville office of the American Red Cross is answering President Obama's call for energy efficiency, and the promotion of green-collar jobs, by having Asheville's Green Opportunities conduct a Comprehensive Energy Audit on their building, in conjunction with Conservation Pros, a local Building Performance Contracting firm.

“A Comprehensive Energy Audit,” says Marcus Renner, a consultant with Conservation Pros, “is the process of addressing all energy uses, from water to space-conditioning, and diagnosing the energy losses. From the audit, we can create a strategy for savings.”

Currently, the Red Cross spends thirty to forty thousand dollars annually on energy. According to Mr. Renner, they have the potential to reduce that amount by as much as fifteen thousand dollars annually, depending on the findings in the Audit.

Mr. Renner points out that's there's more to it than just energy. “Other parts of the strategy will improve indoor air quality, the health of the staff, and generally improve productivity all over the building.”

In addition to the potential annual energy savings, by utilizing the workforce of Asheville GO, a local green jobs training program, to conduct the audit, The Red Cross will save 75% on the cost of a traditional commercial Energy Audit.

Most commercial energy audits turn up deficiencies in the ductwork, insulation, lighting, motor processes and ventilation. Asheville GO and Conservation Pros expect that they will uncover many of these usual suspects. “But,” says Torin Kexel, of Asheville GO, “There's always a surprise in every building.”

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