



PRESS RELEASE

Lafayette Utilities System
P.O. Box 4017-C, Lafayette, LA 70502
www.lus.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:	Beth Chiasson Lafayette Utilities System (337) 291-8930 bethchiasson@lus.org	Je’Nelle Chargois KJCB Radio (337) 233-4262 KJCB@bellsouth.net	Venice Roberts SMILE (337) 234-3272 x218 vroberts@smilecaa.org
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LUS Partners with Lafayette Agencies to Help With Utility Bills

LAFAYETTE, La. (February 9, 2010) – Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) Director Terry Huval announced today that the utility provider is partnering with several area non-profit agencies to help customers pay their utility bills.

Organizations like SMILE Community Action Agency, 232-HELP/211, the Lafayette Catholic Service Center, the Lafayette Housing Authority, Volunteers of America, Acadiana C.A.R.E.S., and others, most of which already provide utility assistance, will now communicate directly with LUS to coordinate their efforts. More importantly, LUS customers who go to these agencies will be given information about SMILE’s Weatherization Assistance Program, an initiative that offers free repairs to houses, mobile homes, apartments and rental homes, aimed at lowering energy usage and costs.

“SMILE has been awarded \$3.3 million in stimulus funds to help low-income residents in a five-parish area with weatherization and energy efficiency,” said Venice Roberts, SMILE’s Weatherization Coordinator. “Some homes have seen their utility bills cut by as much as half as a result of this program.”

“I am excited about this collaboration of agencies, whose mission is to help the truly needy in our community be able to enjoy lower utility bills,” said Je’Nelle Chargois of KJCB Radio.

“The most effective way for customers to save money on their utility bills is to make their residencies more energy efficient,” said Huval.

In order to educate Lafayette homeowners about the plan, LUS and the participating agencies will hold a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2010. It will be held at the Clifton Chenier Center Auditorium on W. Willow Street from 6 to 8 p.m. Renters and landlords are also encouraged to attend.

More information about SMILE’s Weatherization program can be found at www.smilecaa.org or by calling (337) 234-3272.

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Lafayette Utilities System provides electric, water, wastewater and telecommunications services to the city of Lafayette, reaching approximately 60,000 customers. Our mission is to provide high-quality, competitively-priced services that exceed our customers’ expectations, and contribute to the Lafayette Consolidated Government to support other community needs.