



Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly

 Newsletter 2023

From the POWER President

Hello Oberlin!

I am the new President of POWER, just one of many changes you'll read about in this newsletter. Some change is good, some is bad; it's always disruptive but also always an opportunity for growth and improvement.

One big change impacting our work was the elimination of mandated energy efficiency programs in the state of Ohio. Our long-time partner, Columbia Gas, ended their excellent rebate program after many years. However, thanks to the generous support of the City of Oberlin, First Church, the Bill Long Fund, and other local donors, POWER is able to continue providing the same level of financial support for OMLPS customers. Depending on your income, you could receive anywhere from 25% to 100% of weatherization costs covered. This year alone, we have already helped weatherize 21 houses and 48 apartments. That's more than 100 residents who now have a healthier and more comfortable home. All Oberlin residents qualify for financial assistance.

The climate is also changing. Heat will be an increasing challenge for Oberlin residents, with projections suggesting we'll have as many as 30 days each summer over 90 degrees, compared to just the 3 - 4 we have now. POWER can help you think about heat-reducing strategies, such as insulated blinds and heat pumps that both cool and heat. I just put in a portable heat pump that does a great job of keeping my third-floor rooms cool.

No matter what the world throws our way, we are lucky to call Oberlin home. We have each other, and together our community can weather any storm.

Cindy Frantz



PowerOberlin.org
Power@PowerOberlin.org

Inside Oberlin Community Services (OCS)
By Appointment @
500 E. Lorain Street
Oberlin, OH

(440)935-0995

The POWER Board of Directors, 2023.

Back row: Ben Hobbs, Paul Brehm, Eugene Matthews, Peter Jensen, Martin Buck.
Front row: Rebecca Bandy, Jasmin Grindon, Cindy Frantz, Brent Smith, Margie Flood.

POWER on Display

Have you stopped by the new **Center for Sustainability** in the Oberlin Enrichment and Activity Center (aka old Prospect School)? POWER has lots of energy efficiency goodies that are FREE to all OMLPS customers:

door sweeps, pipe wrap, hot water blankets, and more. You can also swap CFL or incandescent bulbs and receive up to five LEDs for free. The office is open 9 - 5, Monday through Friday; Linda Arbogast, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Oberlin, is there on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays and will be happy to share supplies with you! You can also call Linda with questions at (440)775-7257.



PHOTO: Lots of free stuff for OMLPS customers at the Center for Sustainability in the Oberlin Enrichment and Activity Center.

POWER Welcomes New Program Administrator, Stephanie Koscho

With more than a decade of experience in nonprofit management and environmental sustainability, Stephanie brings a fresh perspective to the POWER community. She co-founded her own nonprofit in 2013 offering kayak trips for individuals with physical disabilities. New to the Oberlin-area, Stephanie, her husband Robb, and their 6yo daughter Joey, like to explore the local parks in their free time. Stop by the office and recommend your favorite outdoor space to explore. She's looking forward to meeting more Oberlin residents.

POWER is moving!

As of October, you can now find us at **500 E. Lorain St.** with Oberlin Community Services in the Cooper Community Resource Center. We'll have a bit more room for visitors & supplies. And of course — our contact information and great service will stay the same!

