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**City Of Newton Announces Partnership to Conduct One Thousand  
Home Energy Assessments in One Year**

***Newton Residents Maryann and Matt Siegel (“Matty in the Morning”) Will Have Home  
Energy Assessment No. 1***

NEWTON – Mayor Setti Warren, Green Newton, the Newton Clergy Association, and Next Step Living today announced the Newton Energy Savers initiative, with the goal of conducting 1,000, home energy assessments (HEA) within one year. More than 2,600 Newton homes have had HEAs since 2009.

“This innovative partnership to encourage energy efficiency in homes is a win-win situation,” said Mayor Warren. “These free home energy efficiency assessments will help homeowners save money, save energy, and participate in a city-wide effort to advance environmental sustainability. We hope homeowners embrace energy conservation because many of the steps are simple, cost-effective, and will help reduce Newton’s carbon footprint.”

A home energy assessment is being done today at the Newton home of Maryann and Matt Siegel – host of KISS 108’s “Matty in the Morning Show.” The Siegel’s home will be HEA No. 1 on the road to HEA No. 1,000. “We’re delighted to help the City by encouraging our community to get involved in this important initiative,” said Matt Siegel. “Maryann and I are hoping the assessment will show us ways to help the environment and save money. What homeowner wouldn’t want to do that?”

Green Newton, one of Newton’s leading environmental advocacy organizations, has recruited volunteers from the city’s 13 villages to encourage neighbors and friends to sign up for HEAs throughout the year. “We see this as an important grassroots effort and so do our members,” said Marcia Cooper, president of Green Newton. “We need to talk this up. Getting our friends and neighbors to be more energy efficient at home is a critical step on the road to sustainability for Newton.”

Rabbi Leonard Gordon, the President of the Newton Clergy Association, said the environment and housing needs are the Association’s two priorities this year: “We will be working with the Houses of Worship so they may become more energy-efficient and so that the message of energy efficiency will be spread to members of their congregations.”

The Newton Energy Savers initiative is coordinated through Mass Save<sup>®</sup>, part of a state-wide effort to create more energy-efficient homes. Newton recently selected Next Step Living, in a competitive process, to be its Mass Save<sup>®</sup> contractor.

Next Step Living Director of Community Programs Malcolm Bliss said, “Separate and apart from us, Newton has already shown an extraordinary degree of commitment to lowering

Newton's carbon footprint in real, tangible ways. From Mayor Warren and local environmental activists, to homeowners and businesses, to residents like the Siegels, many Newton residents are signing up to play important roles to accomplish this ambitious objective."

Andrew Savitz, Newton's Director of Sustainability, pointed out that to achieve 1,000 HEAs in a year, Newton will have to increase dramatically its current rate from approximately 600 HEAs per year. "This will take the concerted effort of everyone," Savitz said. "Each of the partners has a specific role to play, including door-to-door canvassing, phone calls, personal solicitations, and information tables at businesses and events throughout the city."

The organizers plan to hold many events over the course of the year to promote sign-ups that will include additional local celebrities and noted environmentalists. There will be neighborhood rallies, public art displays, city-sponsored events, and a grassroots networking campaign organized by Green Newton.

As part of a free HEA, residents receive free installation of LED lightbulbs in qualified fixtures, as well as free low-flow shower heads and aerators, all of which create immediate energy and cost savings. Assessments also include recommendations for additional energy-saving measures including increased insulation and air sealing and the replacement of old boilers and other energy-inefficient appliances. Mass Save<sup>®</sup> provides financial incentives for these improvements and qualified residents can obtain zero interest loans to finance them.

"In addition to saving energy and money right away, the HEA includes a health and safety check for your home, and the opportunity to qualify for thousands of dollars of incentives for insulation and other improvements, said Bliss. "Most residents love this program, and 96% of our customers say they would recommend it to their friends and family. We're proud to help Newton produce energy savings for its residents."

This Newton Energy Savers initiative is one aspect of Mayor Warren's comprehensive sustainability efforts since taking office in 2010 to encourage environmentally sustainable practices. Other programs have included solar development at schools and on other municipal properties, the replacement of approximately 8,000 Newton streetlights with LED, and steps within municipal buildings to conserve energy. Newton is a state designated "Green Community," and it is estimated that the energy initiatives completed under the Warren Administration will save Newton taxpayers \$30 to 40 million over the next 20 years.

To schedule a home energy assessment, please call 800-764-5219 or visit: [www.NextStepLiving.com/CityofNewton](http://www.NextStepLiving.com/CityofNewton) For further information, please contact the City of Newton's Director of Sustainability, Andrew Savitz: (617) 796-1019 or [asavitz@newtonma.gov](mailto:asavitz@newtonma.gov).

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