“SmartBuildings Detroit is exactly the kind of program business owners can embrace.”

The SmartBuildings Detroit program leverages other incentives and energy optimization programs available to commercial property owners to encourage energy efficiency improvements in commercial, institutional and public buildings in downtown Detroit.

The Cass Café Project

After the owner submitted an application under the Program, the firm of Kelly-Tinker prepared a Technical Energy Analysis in May of 2011. Cass Café owner Chuck Roy is now obtaining bids for the energy work which is anticipated to be under construction in late summer of 2011.

About Cass Café:
- Built in 1958.
- Located in the Midtown neighborhood along Cass Corridor.
- Serves as a restaurant, art gallery, and performance space.

What energy-related problems did Cass Café face?
- High energy bills caused by inefficient, aging restaurant equipment, including numerous coolers, as well as outdated lighting of the patron space and art gallery.
- Considerable hot water needs.
- A drafty seating area due to air leakage along doors and windows.

What improvements are being made?
- Window and door replacements.
- An insulated roof.
- A new high-efficiency refrigerator/freezer.
- Extensive lighting replacement.
- HVAC and other improvements.

What were the benefits?
- A $32,500 grant toward energy improvements with an estimated overall project of $130,000.
- An estimated cost savings of $13,230 per year.*
- An estimated energy savings of 630,186 MBtu per year.*

* Based on an energy assessment conducted by Kelly-Tinker Architects.

To learn about the BetterBuildings for Michigan program, contact SmartBuildingsDetroit at (313) 963–2940. Applications can be obtained by visiting SmartBuildingsDetroit.com. More information is also available at www.betterbuildingsformichigan.org

“SmartBuildings Detroit is exactly the kind of program my customers hope we embrace. They can appreciate the energy savings initiatives that this assistance will allow the Cass Café to implement.”

—Chuck Roy, owner of Cass Café