

# News Release



**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:** Jason Dodson  
Chief of Staff  
[jdodson@summitoh.net](mailto:jdodson@summitoh.net)  
330-643-2520

## **Summit County to Expand Akron Energy Special Improvement District Throughout Summit County to Promote Energy-Efficiency Improvements**

Last week, Summit County Council adopted, and County Executive Ilene Shapiro signed, innovative legislation intended to provide businesses, non-profits and governments with an additional incentive to make energy-efficient improvements to their buildings. During her first year in office, County Executive Shapiro has stressed the importance of creating new tools for the County's economic development toolbox, and has worked with County Council to find new ways to assist businesses and non-profits throughout Summit County.

The unanimously adopted legislation authorized Executive Shapiro to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Development Finance Authority of Summit County (DFA) and the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) to take steps to expand the Akron Energy Special Improvement District (ESID) throughout the rest of Summit County. As the ESID expands to new communities, the businesses, non-profits and governments in those communities will be eligible to fund energy efficient improvements through the State's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) laws. Under PACE law, commercial property owners are able to make improvements such as lighting upgrades, roof replacements and window replacements, and have the costs of the improvements financed over time and repaid through an assessment against the property. Because the source of the repayments is an assessment against the property, the improvements generally come with favorable financing terms.

“The expansion of Akron’s ESID will create economic development opportunities that are not only energy efficient but financially beneficial for our largest cities and our smallest townships,” said Executive Shapiro. “I appreciate the City of Akron’s Council and Mayor for their cooperation in this regional endeavor.”

The County, DFA and NOPEC will work with the remaining 30 communities in Summit County to identify a qualifying improvement project in each respective community that will allow a petition to be filed to expand the ESID to include that community. The parties anticipate that in some situations the project used to expand the ESID to a community will be a local business, and in other situations they anticipate that the project will be for a property either owned by the County or another local government. The expansion will begin with the communities contiguous to the City of Akron as required by State law. As future businesses, non-profit and government projects are undertaken in the future, those projects will be able to move more quickly because the process to expand the ESID in each community will already be completed.

“This is another example of collaboration and innovation in Summit County,” said County Council President John Schmidt. “The ESID expansion will create excellent opportunities for County residents and businesses to save money while investing in energy efficiency.”

In conjunction with the efforts to expand the ESID to the balance of the County, NOPEC has announced the creation of a new PACE loan program for commercial property owners within NOPEC communities. Under the NOPEC program, eligible improvements ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000 can be financed through PACE financing. To learn more about NOPEC, its member communities and its PACE loan program, please visit <https://www.nopecinfo.org/>.

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