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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
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For Immediate Release:
Friday, June 10, 2011

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ADECA Loan to Cut Energy Costs, Create Jobs at Roanoke Plant

MONTGOMERY—The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs today announced that a Randolph County manufacturer is the first business approved to participate in AlabamaSAVES™, the department's new and innovative program to save energy and boost employment. ADECA is providing a \$2.3 million loan to enable The Dixie Group to install upgrades that will save energy and create up to 20 new jobs at its Roanoke carpet yarn plant.

“AlabamaSAVES is a revolving loan fund established by ADECA to help Alabama businesses finance energy-saving improvements, reduce operating expenses and create work for Alabamians,” ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. said. “When a business becomes more efficient, it is better able to grow and create new jobs; that benefits our entire state, especially residents who urgently need employment.”

The Dixie Group worked with an AlabamaSAVES-approved independent energy service provider, SAIN Engineering Associates Inc. of Birmingham, to identify high efficiency equipment. The loan will be used to install high-efficiency equipment in its Roanoke yarn plant, which makes carpets and rugs for residential and commercial consumers. The new equipment, used to heat and set yarn into the carpets and rugs, is expected to increase the plant's production capability while cutting utility costs by 15 percent.

“This new equipment, along with other related investments, will drive the creation of 20 additional jobs in the Roanoke facility,” said Jon Faulkner, chief financial officer of The Dixie Group. “AlabamaSAVES' low interest rate and streamlined loan-approval process made it possible to pursue this important energy upgrade at this time.”

The energy savings generated by the improvements will be greater than loan repayments, meaning extra cash flow to help the company remain competitive and expand employment. The company will have five years to repay the 2-percent interest rate loan.

ADECA established AlabamaSAVES with funds made available to the state by the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program. Loans of up to \$4 million are available to help existing commercial and industrial businesses finance energy-saving improvements. Projects are evaluated on potential for job creation and retention, sustainable energy savings, cost savings, renewable energy generation and emissions reductions.

Abundant Power, a firm that partners with states and municipalities to design, administer and finance energy-efficiency and renewable energy programs, is helping ADECA administer AlabamaSAVES.

For more information about the program, go to www.alabamasaves.com.