



THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY YOU TO BECOME ENERGY EFFICIENT:

Learn how to apply for HELP and tax rebates for home energy efficiency upgrades
May 14, 7 PM Town Hall.

Sponsored by the Climate Protection Committee

How about some good news for a change?! The IRS and Montgomery County will now help you save money. How? By giving you money back for making your home more energy efficient. You can save up to 10-40% on your utility bills by getting a home energy audit and making appropriate energy efficiency upgrades to your home. But many people have delayed making these changes because of the cost. Residents have even avoided getting home energy audits because they're afraid the recommendations will be too expensive to implement. Now making your home energy efficient has become more economical.

The big news is that Montgomery County has just (April 14, 2009) passed HELP – the Home Energy Loan Program. In this program, you get a loan to cover the costs of an energy audit and recommended energy efficiency upgrades (including whole house air sealing, insulating, caulking and weather-stripping, heating and cooling system efficiency modifications, and programmable thermostats). You then pay back the loan over a 15-year period along with your property taxes. The best thing is that the loan attaches to the property so if you sell the house before the loan is repaid, the subsequent homeowners pay the unpaid portion of the loan. (see http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/mem/berliner_r/Press_Releases/helpproved4-14.pdf).

The County also provides up to \$250 per fiscal year in property tax credits for the cost of eligible efficiency upgrades (including insulation, programmable thermostats, and energy efficient furnaces, boilers and heat pumps). (For more details, see http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/finance/CountyTaxes/Renewable_Energy_Tax_Credit_Application.pdf).

And, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes incentives for making your home more energy efficient. The federal government is offering a federal income tax credit for 30% (up to \$1500 total) of the cost of installing energy efficient technologies (including insulation, and efficient water heaters, furnaces, boilers, heat pumps and air conditioners) in your home in 2009 and 2010. (For more details, see http://www.dsireusa.org/library/includes/incentive2.cfm?Incentive_Code=US43F&State=federal¤tpageid=1&ee=1&re=1).

On May 14 at 7 PM, Councilmember Roger Berliner will be there to discuss HELP, Eric Coffman from the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection will explain how to apply for these programs and Suzanne Parmet of Live Green LLC will provide tips on applying for these programs. We'll have forms available and other resources to help make the process very easy. Refreshments will be served. Call the Town Office if you have any questions (301-654-7144).

