

Free energy efficiency/conservation programs for low-income consumers

Multifamily Energy Efficiency Rebate

The OPA Multi-Family Buildings Rebate is offering financial incentives to building owners and property managers wishing to undertake energy efficiency improvements. Buildings that contain more than 6 housing units are eligible. Financial incentives cover HVAC systems, lighting, appliance replacements, building envelope, controls, water heating, motors, pumps and fans. Energy audit and resident education subsidies are also available.

The City of Toronto's Office of Energy Efficiency is delivering this program in the 416 area code through its Better Buildings Partnership office. For more information, call 416-397-9217 or visit the Better Buildings Partnership website.

If the project is outside of the 416 area code, contact GreenSaver at 1-877-697-MEER for more information.

Enbridge Gas Distribution: Low-Income Home Weatherization Retrofit

The Enbridge Home Weatherization Retrofit program provides income-eligible participants with a free home energy assessment and weatherization upgrades at no cost, to improve the energy efficiency of their home. Approximately 400 qualifying low-income Enbridge Gas customer households will benefit from this program that will be delivered by GreenSaver in the City of Toronto, Peel, York and Durham Regions, by EnviroCentre in the Ottawa area and by Green Venture in the Niagara Region. The program runs until December 31, 2010, and applications must be received by November 30, 2010. For more information, eligibility criteria and to obtain an application form, visit: GTA, York, Peel and Durham Regions - GreenSaver website at www.greensaver.org and select Special Programs tab or call 416-203-3106 (1-888-855-3106 toll-free); Ottawa Area - EnviroCentre at www.envirocentre.ca or call 613-580-2424, ext. 15490; Niagara Region - Green Venture at www.greenventure.ca or call 1-866-540-8866.

Enbridge Gas Distribution: Enhanced TAPS program

The Enhanced TAPS Program is available at no cost to qualifying low-income families and individuals through to December 31, 2010. The following energy efficiency measures are supplied and installed: programmable thermostat and low-flow showerheads. Kitchen and bathroom aerators and compact fluorescent light bulbs are provided for recipients to install themselves. Applications are available through United Way agencies participating in the Winter Warmth program. For more information, please visit the Enbridge Gas Distribution website at: www.enbridge.com/gas, select "About Us" then "In the Community" and then select Winter Warmth.

Union Gas: Helping Homes Conserve

Union Gas has developed an energy efficiency and conservation program, "Helping Homes Conserve", targeted at low-income homeowners and low-income tenants who pay for their energy bills directly and are Union Gas customers. Low-income participants will benefit from the free installation of Energy Saving Kits (ESK), which contain up to two low-flow showerheads, two faucet aerators, and pipe insulation, and the free installation of a programmable thermostat. Customers must have a natural gas water heater to qualify for the ESK installation, and a natural gas furnace to qualify for the programmable thermostat installation. The program was launched in Hamilton on August 17, 2007 and will continue throughout 2010 in Hamilton, Windsor, Sudbury, London, Cornwall, Brantford and North Bay. The program will further expand in 2010, with more cities being added by December. The additional communities served for 2010 will be rolled out sometime between May and December. For more information and to see which cities are currently being served, visit <http://www.uniongas.com/helpinghomes/index.asp> OR call 1-866-354-5098.

Union Gas also delivers a small Weatherization program. Income-eligible homeowners must live in a residential dwelling that is more than 25 years old to qualify for the program. The following free measures were offered: pre-energy audit, attic insulation, basement insulation, draft proofing, and a post-energy audit. Union Gas weatherized 75 homes in Cornwall in 2009 and will do another 105 in 2010. Union is also targeting approximately 30 homes in Windsor.

Discretionary benefit to cover energy conservation measures

This is a \$50 one-time benefit to pay for pre-approved, low-cost energy conservation measures, such as caulking, sealing or weather stripping around doors and windows, insulating hot water pipes and hot water tanks, and installing flow restrictors in showerhead pipes. It is available to OW and ODSP recipients, who can contact their caseworkers for more information.

Ottawa's PowerPlay program

The PowerPlay program, launched in 2005 and delivered by EnviroCentre and the City of Ottawa, provides an in-home electricity audit showing how to reduce electricity and gas consumption and installs up to \$300 worth of conservation devices, free-of-charge, to Ontario Works recipients in the City of Ottawa who have an individual account with Hydro Ottawa or Hydro One. Call 613-580-2582 (ext 3) for more information.

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★ Note: This summary is not an exhaustive list. It represents LIEN's best efforts to identify available programs to assist low-income consumers and will be updated regularly.