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INFORMATION FOR TENANTS & LANDLORDS

If you are a TENANT or a LANDLORD, you can take advantage of a variety of educational, technical, and financial assistance programs to work together towards a goal of making the residence more energy efficient, comfortable, and safe. With rising energy prices, everybody benefits from investing their time and resources in better energy management. Saving money on energy consumption helps to keep rents down, gives tenants more funds for other family needs, and leaves landlords with more resources available for maintenance of the property.

Programs are generally available in two categories: multifamily dwellings of either 1-4 units or 5 or more units. Additional assistance is available if the average income of the tenants is equal to or less than 80% of the state's average for their household size.

Getting Help:

Sometimes our financial situations make it very difficult to pay our energy bills. Fortunately, there are programs that can provide assistance in times of need. The **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** can provide a one-time payment up to \$400, and emergency benefits of up to \$485 to help pay for home heating expenses. Contact the county Department of Social Services to see if you qualify for assistance. Or you can contact NYSEG about their **Power Partners** program offered to qualifying participants. This program can help you reduce your utility bills by up to \$185 per year.

EmPower New York is a new program offered to some participants in the Power Partners program. Participants are offered free workshops on how to manage their energy use, and can also qualify for weatherization retrofits on their homes, or energy efficient appliances to replace old and wasteful equipment. Contact NYSEG or the county Office of the Aging to see if you can participate.

Another way to get help is to look into NYSERDA's **Assisted Home Performance with Energy Star and Weatherization Network Initiative** programs offered by teams of community-based organizations helping both tenants and owners of 1-4 family homes. If a tenant earns less than 80% of the NYS median income for their household size (for example, \$28,848 for a single or \$37,728 for a couple), the owner of the building can qualify for cash incentives of up to \$5,000 to cover half of the costs of having a contractor conduct a comprehensive energy, health, and safety assessment of the home and install insulation, weatherization materials, and/or upgrade the heating system. The household eligibility income levels increase, as the number of occupants in each household increase. Landlords for multifamily buildings (2-4 units) can access \$10,000 in matching funds for energy improvements. You must use a certified Building Performance Institute contractor to qualify. Tenants can also access help in reducing their electric consumption with subsidies for efficient light bulbs, refrigerators and hot water heaters. Call (607) 279-6616 to talk to an Energy Smart coordinator or Performance Systems Contracting (277-6240). Or visit www.GetEnergySmart.org for details.

Landlords for buildings with 5 or more units, whose tenants' average income is less than 80% of the State median, can get technical assistance and incentives through the **Assisted Multifamily Program**. After a preliminary review of the building, a program team will conduct an energy audit and make recommendations for improvements in areas such as insulation, space heating, lighting, and appliances. Help is also provided in creating financing packages through loans and grants. Call (607) 279-6616 to talk to an Energy Smart coordinator, or call Taitem Engineering at (607) 277-1118. Or visit www.GetEnergySmart.org for details.

Taking Action:

Once you've learned about your options for better management of energy consumption, you can sit down with your landlords or tenants, and Energy Smart coordinator, contractor, or other service provider and come up with a plan of action for getting the best results with the resources available.

The **Home Performance with Energy Star** program offers assistance to landlords and tenants in 1-4 family homes for improving home insulation, heating and cooling systems, lighting, and major appliances, while also paying attention to indoor air quality and tenants' health and safety. Before making any large investments in energy-related improvements, it's a great idea to have a free assessment done on the energy, health, and safety of your building's performance. These "energy audits" must be done by a trained and certified BPI contractor and are free, if you implement just one of the recommended actions that come from the analysis.

Landlords for buildings with 5 or more units can get technical and financial assistance through NYSERDA's **Residential Technical Assistance Program**. An approved contractor will conduct a preliminary review and full energy assessment of the building. Landlords can also get financial assistance for completing the recommended energy improvements. Call (607) 279-6616 to talk to an Energy Smart coordinator or visit www.GetEnergySmart.org.

Financing Options:

A variety of programs are available for those needing access to financial resources for energy improvements. For 1-4 family buildings, loans are available through **NYSERDA's Home Performance with Energy Star** program. These low-interest, unsecured loans of up to \$20,000 can be repaid over 3, 5, 7, or 10-year periods. A similar program is offered through participating local lenders offering the **New York Energy Smart Loan Fund**. These loans are also up to \$20,000 with ten-year pay periods, but offer a 4% reduction in the lender's interest rate.

Finally, if you decide that you don't need to borrow funds to do your energy improvements, you can receive a **direct cash payment** from NYSERDA to cover 10% of the expenses associated with making any recommended energy improvements. This incentive is limited to a total of \$2,000 and is only available if you choose not to use the other loan or incentive programs. Note that all of the NYSERDA loan and incentive programs require that the work on your building be done through the **Home Performance with Energy Star** program.

Directory of Energy/Heating Services

American Red Cross- Southern Tier

Cindy Gordineer, Executive Director- gordineers@usa.redcross.org

Sharon Aswad

620 East Main Street

Endicott, NY 13760

(607) 785-7207

<http://www.southerntierredcross.org>

- Project SHARE is an administering program for NYSEG customer. The customer has to be either 60+ years, disabled, handicapped, or uses medical equipment that is reliant upon the utility. HEAP income eligible applicants must apply for regular HEAP first. Project Share gives up to \$200 if there is a shut-off notice, but will only cover up to \$200 to keep the utility from being shut-off and only for a 30-day period. If there is no utility bill, Project Share can provide up to \$200 for delivery of fuel oil, propane, or firewood. The customer can only use Project Share once every 18 months. In some situations, Project Share will do emergency repairs up to \$200 (i.e. water heater/water pump). There is no income limit, but Project Share is usually provided to low-income customers. If customer has sufficient funds and should have been able to cover the costs of the utility, Project Share will provide counseling. For this program, it does not matter if the customer is an owner or a tenant, as long as the bill is in his/her name. This program is a grant.
- Broome County residents can also qualify for FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program. This funding program is strictly for Broome County residents and provides emergency heating and utility assistance. There is no age limit if the need is critical. The eligibility is the same as Project Share, and this program provides up to \$500 in grant assistance.

Broome County Department of Social Service (DSS)

Arthur R. Johnson, Commissioner, CSW

George Kurbaba gikurbaba@aol.com

36-42 Main Street

Binghamton, NY 13905

(607) 778-8850

Carla 778-2504

- Social Service is the first place residents should go to for help. SSD provides emergency and non-emergency HEAP which is open from November 15 until Mid-May. There are income requirements, but no age requirements. HEAP provides funding for utility bills, fuel oil, firewood, kerosene, and/or one regular benefit. It does not matter if the resident owns or rents the home as long as the utility bill is in his/her name.
- SSD also provides emergency assistance. This is authorized only once in any 30-day period in any 12 consecutive months. Eligibility: families with children under 18 years old, adults who receive SSI, elderly, or disabled.

- The following three programs provide assistance for back rent eviction, flood, fire, catastrophe, shelter, and emergency repairs.
 - Emergency cash assistance- Eligibility: one time- limit varies with program
 - Emergency safety net- Eligibility: single not on SSI, sometime used for families
 - Emergency aid to families- Eligibility: must have children
 - Emergency aid to adults- Eligibility: must be on SSI

Broome County Office for the Aging
Kathleen Bunnell, Director
Lucy Dirlam ldirlam@co.broome.ny.us
B.C. Office Bldg, 4th Floor
Binghamton, NY 13902
(607) 778-2411
<http://www.gobroomecounty.com/senior>

- The Office for the Aging provides non-emergency HEAP for residents 60+ years or disabled persons on SSI or SSD who meet income guidelines for financial assistance with energy costs. This program provides referrals for fuel or utility emergencies and referrals for weatherization projects directed by the WRAP Program.
- The Weatherization Referral and Packaging Program (WRAP) provides weatherization to anyone eligible for HEAP, including attic/wall insulation, caulking, weather stripping, and furnace cleaning. Referrals are made to other agencies for other health and safety related repairs. Eligibility: 60+ years or disabled (SSI/SSD) and low-income. The resident must own the home or trailer or rent apartment in building up to four units. A landlord consent and contribution is needed.

Citizens Action of New York
Mary Clark jagregor@verizon.net
33 State Street Ste 201
Binghamton, NY
(607) 723-0110 / 1 800-559-4645

- The Fuel Group Program contracts with local fuel suppliers for heating fuel and kerosene. This program provides discounted rates saving to members from 5-15 cent/gallon. Homeowners who use 1000 gallons of fuel/year may save \$100/\$300 year. Businesses are also eligible to apply. There is a sliding scale membership fee up to \$25/year.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County
David Bradstreet, Executive Director
840 Upper Front St.
Binghamton, NY 13905
Ellen DeFay emd33@cornell.edu

**Georgia Wimberly (607) 584-5009
(607) 772-8953**

- Provides financial and energy workshops including Making Ends Meet and Save Energy, Save Dollars. Cooperative Extension can refer attendees to the NYSEG Power Partners program and the Empower New York Program at these sessions.
- Empower New York provides appliances including furnaces, hot water tanks, and refrigerators at no cost to customers. A contractor will go to Empower Customers' homes and do an audit, and then replace appliances if needed. Residents are enrolled through NYSEG Power Partners Program and have to fill out appliance questionnaire. NYSEG then picks a subset of the Power Partners Program for the Empower Program. (In order for a person to get empower incentives have to demonstrate that they have a hard time paying utility bills.) County Office for the aging and Cornell Cooperative Extension are also allowed to make referrals to Empower.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County

**Energy Smart Coordinators
Dennis Mastrodastro@twcnny.rr.com
615 Willow Ave.
Ithaca, NY 14850-3555
(607) 272-2292**

- Empower New York provides appliances including furnaces, hot water tanks, and refrigerators at no cost to customers. A contractor will go to Empower Customers' homes and do an audit, and then replace appliances if needed. Residents are enrolled through NYSEG Power Partners Program and have to fill out appliance questionnaire. NYSEG then picks a subset of the Power Partners Program for the Empower Program. (In order for a person to get empower incentives have to demonstrate that they have a hard time paying utility bills.) County Office for the aging and Cornell Cooperative Extension are also allowed to make referrals to Empower.

East End Refrigeration

**Eastendref1@aol.com
128 Robinson Street
Binghamton, NY
(607) 724-4992**

- Sells energy star appliances and accepts NYSERDA Empower New York applicants.

Jewish Federation of Broome County

**Earle H. Schecter, Exec Director
500 Clubhouse Rd.
Vestal, NY 13850
(607) 724-2332**

- Jewish Family Services just received a grant for weatherization.

HAMA Associates Inc.

Reverend Henry Ausby
607-765-3491
callhama@aol.com
<http://www.hamarealty.com/>

- HAMA provides one-stop shopping with home buying seminars, affordable homes fairs, affordable homes guides and an affordable homes website, in addition to one-on-one counseling. The goal is to help individuals and families get past the many barriers to home ownership and into a home of their own.

Kovarik True Value Hardware

276 Clinton Street
Binghamton, NY
(607) 729-0802

- Sells energy star appliances and accepts NYSERDA Empower New York applicants.

Lend-a-Hand Fund (Press & Sun Bulletin)

Diane Ellen Hunter dehunter@binghamt.gannett.com
PO Box 1270
Binghamton, NY 13902
(607) 798-1340

- Emergency Financial Assistance- provided under specific guidelines to low-income resident when help is not available from other sources. Funds may assist with rent, utilities, appliances, heating fuel, beds, etc. Payment is made directly to vendors. Eligibility: written letter of referral from recognized social agency outlining need and financial situation of local area resident.

New York State Energy & Gas (NYSEG)

Dave Pitel- Customer Service
Jackie Petcosky- jlpetcosky@nyseg.com
44-25 Old Vestal Road
P.O. Box 3607
Binghamton, NY, 13902
(607) 762-7200

- The Power Partners Program provides a basic service charge reduction to electric active NYSEG customers who meet income guidelines (80% of median income). This program places customers on a budget and can place late payment balance on hold. NYSEG asks customer to pay monthly bills in full plus an over payment of \$5 to \$10/month which is matched by NYSEG until late payments are paid back.

- The Hardship Protection Program provides special protections if there is 1) a serious medical condition or life-sustaining equipment in household; 2) a member of the household is in the hospital (must file application “One Less Worry”); or 3) all members of household are blind, disabled, or 62+ years (will be contacted before shut-off).

New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA)
Energy Star Contractor
Clair Coolbaugh- cdcjr004@aol.com
607-279-0038

New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza- 19th FL
Albany, NY
1 800-342-3377
www.dps.state.ny.us

- The Senior ID Program provides utility shut-off protection. This program enrolls customers in a special shut-off protection program, notifies the utility company of the consumer’s eligibility, and works with the company in the event of a shut-off threat while local Social Services Department determines what financial assistance is available to the customer. Eligibility: utility customers 62+ years, blind, disabled, or shares housing with persons older then 62 or less then 18 years.

Olum’s Vestal
3701 Vestal Parkway East Campus Plaza
Vestal, NY
(607) 729-5775

- Sells energy star appliances and accepts NYSERDA Empower New York applicants.

Opportunities for Broome
Tim Grippen, Executive Director
Housing- Mary Lee Cachardo- mcochardoofb@aol.com
56-58 Whitney Ave.
Binghamton, NY
(607) 723-6493

- Provides non-emergency HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program), outreach for Tioga Opportunities Weatherization Program, FEMA emergency shelter, and works with NYSEG on the Power Partners program.

Opportunities for Chenango
Wayne Viera, Housing
Patrick O’Rourke
44 West Main St.
P.O. Box 47
Norwich NY 13815.

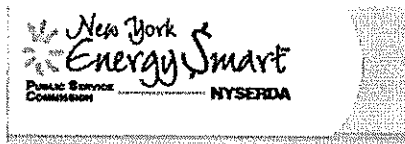
(607) 336-2101 x 116 ext. 125 ask for Patrick or Gary
porourke@ofcinc.org
<http://www.ofcinc.org>

- In cooperation with DSS offers applications for the NYS LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). LIHEAP subsidizes energy expenses such as heating and emergency cooling costs for eligible low-income individuals and families.

Southern Tier East Regional Planning Board

Robert Augenstern ste@steny.org
375 State Street, 2nd Fl.
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 724-1327
Fax (607) 724-1194
www.steny.org

- The Project Development Assistance Program provides assistance in development and funding of projects through Appalachian Regional Commission under five goals: Skills and Knowledge, Physical Infrastructure, Community Capacity, Dynamic Local Economies, and Health Care. This program assists with economic development programs through Economic Development Administration funding.



WINTER ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

- Use a programmable thermostat with your heating system to automatically lower the temperature at night or when no one is home.
- Keep the warm air in and the cold air out by adding insulation, caulking and weather-stripping around doors, attic access, windows, outlets and any area that can let the cold air in and the warm air out. Or, call a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® contractor to assess your home's efficiency.
- It's a good time to check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace old batteries. Remember - as you seal up leaks in your home this becomes even more important.
- Make sure floor and wall vents are not blocked by draperies, furniture, or rugs. Vents should also be cleaned regularly with a vacuum or broom.
- Keep blinds and drapes of sun-exposed windows open in the daytime and closed at night.
- When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed.
- Have your heating system inspected by a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor. If you have a forced-air heating system, check your air filters once a month and replace if dirty.
- Make sure outdoor portions of your heating system are not blocked by leaves, shrubbery, or other objects.
- If you have a window air conditioning unit, remove it for the winter months to prevent heat from escaping through and around the unit. If it can't be removed, buy a cover to prevent drafts.
- Install rubber gaskets behind outlets and switch plates on exterior walls. Gaskets can be found in most home improvement stores.
- Ceiling fans can keep you comfortable in the winter too! Reversing the direction of the blades pushes warm air down in to the room.
- Lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees. For added savings, have your water heater wrapped with an insulation blanket by your Heating/Plumbing Contractor.

HOME ENERGY USE

DID YOU KNOW?

- **You could use 30% LESS energy in your home just by using energy more wisely and purchasing products with the ENERGY STAR label.** You can find the ENERGY STAR on refrigerators, clothes washers, computers, dishwashers, room air conditioners, TVs, VCRs, dehumidifiers, lighting, ceiling fans, and more!
- Where does your home use energy?
 - 60% - Air conditioning/heat
 - 16% - Water heater
 - 12% - Refrigerator

- 7% - Lights
- 5% - Computers, TV, etc.
- The amount of electricity you use is measured in, and priced by, kilowatt-hours (kWh). When you pay for a kilowatt-hour of electricity, you are paying for 1,000 watts of electricity used continuously for one hour.
- You can calculate the operating cost of any electrical appliance by checking its wattage and using these formulas:
 - wattage x hours used/1,000 = kWh
 - kWh x cost per kWh = operating cost

LIGHTING

DID YOU KNOW?

- Replacing your current incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) will save you nearly \$30 over the life of each bulb.
- ENERGY STAR CFLs use 66% less energy than a standard incandescent bulb and last up to 10 times longer. This means that over the life of one CFL, a consumer can avoid replacing up to 10 incandescent bulbs!
- **ENERGY STAR lighting fixtures** put out the same amount of light as standard fixtures while providing excellent color rendering and light temperature. Colors appear true and natural.
- ENERGY STAR fixtures operate at much lower temperatures than many traditional lamps, drastically reducing the risk of fire in your home.

LIGHTING ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

- Turn off unused lights and electronics (TVs, radios, computers) when you leave a room.
- Use timers on indoor and outdoor lights.

THE ATTIC - ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

- Check your insulation - especially your attic. By increasing and filling gaps in insulation in older homes you keep your home warmer in the winter, cooler in the summer, and save money all year round.
- Install a vapor barrier in your attic to reduce the flow of moisture from inside your home through the insulation. This eliminates condensation that reduces insulation efficiency.

LAUNDRY

DID YOU KNOW?

- 90% of the energy used for washing clothes is for heating the water.
- **ENERGY STAR clothes washers** use 50% less water than standard models, saving about 8,000 gallons a year per household.
- They also use 37% less energy, saving you up to \$80 a year (depending on the water temperature setting and whether it's an electric or natural gas hot water heater).
- In addition, ENERGY STAR clothes washers extract more water from clothes during the spin cycle. This reduces the drying time and saves energy.