

South Bay Environmental Services Center
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ENERGY UPGRADE CALIFORNIA IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFERS THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN SUMMER BONUS INCENTIVES FOR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY \$2,000 from the County and up to \$4,000 from the Utilities

Homeowners in the South Bay Can Beat Summer Heat with Home Energy Upgrades and Find More Money in Their Pockets with Increased Energy Efficiency Incentives from L.A. County

South Bay – The South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC), in conjunction with Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County, announces the launch of a limited-time increased incentive for energy-saving home upgrades. From now through Labor Day, homeowners who achieve at least 20 percent energy savings through qualified home energy improvements performed by a participating Energy Upgrade California contractor can receive \$2,000 back from Los Angeles County. In addition, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company are offering up to \$4,000 back through Energy Upgrade California, which means that L.A. County homeowners who achieve maximum energy savings with home energy upgrades may receive a **total incentive of \$6,000**. The incentives are available to homeowners in the South Bay as part of [Energy Upgrade California](#) in L.A. County, a program designed to help homeowners save money through energy efficient improvements to their homes.

“Southern California’s summer heat inevitably brings higher costs for cooling your home, so this is an ideal time to consider energy-saving home upgrades,” said Howard Choy, general manager of the L.A. County Office of Sustainability. “It’s our hope that the increased incentives offered this summer encourage more L.A. county residents to take advantage of energy improvements that will help them save money, create more comfortable indoor environments and contribute to our county-wide energy-efficiency efforts as we head into the hot summer months of high energy use.”

The Energy Upgrade California in LA County program rolled out to residents in early 2011 to provide homeowners in Los Angeles County who make energy-saving home improvements with rebates and incentives of up to \$4,500—in addition to savings on monthly utility bills. Now, for a limited time, homeowners can receive incentives of up to \$6,000, funded by an increase of \$1,500 in the incentives provided by L.A. County. Energy Upgrade home improvements that qualify for rebates and incentives include insulation, sealing, HVAC upgrades, energy-efficient windows, tankless water heaters and other “fixed” improvements. The program emphasizes a “whole house” approach, rather than installing individual improvements, as the most efficient and effective way to save money on energy bills and qualify for the maximum rebate available.

Upgrades such as sealing and insulating the home can maximize the efficiency of a new air conditioner or whole house fan, creating a cooler, more comfortable home and helping to save on energy costs. Homes that have undergone energy efficiency upgrades can often use smaller air conditioners than those that have not, so homeowners considering the purchase of a new AC unit this summer should plan on making energy efficiency improvements before they buy to save money now and in the future.

Carson ▪ El Segundo ▪ Gardena ▪ Hawthorne ▪ Hermosa Beach ▪ Inglewood ▪ Lawndale ▪ Lomita ▪ Manhattan Beach
Palos Verdes Estates ▪ Rancho Palos Verdes ▪ Redondo Beach ▪ Rolling Hills ▪ Rolling Hills Estates ▪ Torrance ▪ Los Angeles County

The increased summer rebate is retroactive for homeowners who have already begun upgrades through the Energy Upgrade California program and is available while funds last or through Labor Day 2011. After Labor Day, the L.A. County rebate will return to its original amount of \$500, and homeowners will be eligible for a maximum of \$4,500 in incentives. For more information about qualified upgrades and available incentives, program guidelines and finding a participating contractor, visit energyupgradeca.com/LA County before beginning upgrade work.

In order to be eligible for all rebates and incentives, energy efficiency upgrades must be performed by an Energy Upgrade California participating contractor. Through the Energy Upgrade California website, homeowners will be directed to the list of participating contractors specially trained in energy efficiency upgrades.

About Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County

Energy Upgrade California is a state-wide energy efficiency program for homeowners and collaboration among the California Energy Commission, the California Public Utilities Commission, utilities, local governments and the private sector. Funding for the Energy Upgrade California program comes from multiple American Reinvestment and Recovery Act sources, including: Los Angeles County's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant; U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Program funding; and a California Energy Commission discretionary grant. Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County is administered and overseen by an alliance among LA County, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company. Los Angeles County is one of the first counties in California to roll out this program. Locally, county officials are coordinating with the utilities to provide homeowners with information on home upgrade benefits, financing, incentives and home energy ratings, and help with finding participating contractors. For more information or to schedule a presentation for your group or association, please visit www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org or call SBESC at 310-371-7222.

About the South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC)

The SBESC is the South Bay's local clearinghouse for energy and water efficiency training, materials and other environmental information. SBESC works closely with the sixteen South Bay cities and County Unincorporated Areas of the South Bay on the implementation of energy and water saving projects that reduce greenhouse gases as well as costs. SBESC provides resources and tools to assist residents, businesses, and public agencies in better understanding the potential for energy and water efficiency within their homes and businesses. The Center hosts a wide variety of seminars, training sessions, and participates in many community events to assist consumers in making the best decision regarding energy and water use. The SBESC is operated by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) which partners with The Gas CompanySM, Southern California Edison, West Basin Municipal Water District, City of Torrance Water Department, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and County of Los Angeles. Visit www.sbesc.com for the latest activities, schedules and opportunities to participate in a greener South Bay.

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