

## Utility will offer home energy evaluations for UEZ residents

Officials with PSE&G recently announced the company will offer free home energy audits and free or low-cost energy conservation measures to eligible customers in the 25 Urban Enterprise Zone municipalities within the utility's service territory.

PSE&G customers living in one- to four- family homes in Irvington, East Orange and Orange may be eligible for free residential home energy audits, said utility officials. A participant must be a PSE&G customer with a separately metered electric or gas account. Tenants may participate, but landlord permission is required.

During the recent New Jersey League of Municipalities convention in Atlantic City, municipal officials were informed that the utility was expanding its residential energy efficiency programs. The programs previous were available only to customers in Trenton and Newark.

Utility officials said the home-energy audits are part of its carbon abatement and energy efficiency economic stimulus initiatives approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to boost the economy, help customers save energy and money and create "green" jobs.

PSE&G has begun sending letters to eligible homeowners and encouraging them to register for the program.

Under the residential initiative, customers who qualify will be offered a three step program to boost their homes' energy efficiency. The first two steps are free and include an in-home energy audit, a blower/door test to identify air leaks around the home, an appliance safety test, a programmable thermostat and eight hours of weatherization, including caulking, door sweeps, and attic air sealing.

Incentives, based on income, are available in the third step of the program for the installation of additional energy efficiency measures such as attic insulation and the upgrading of heating and cooling equipment.

New "green jobs" in urban communities are being created as the result of the new programs, said PSE&G officials. The utility has plans to fill 100 energy auditor and air sealing positions during the next year. Approximately 40 have been hired.

Twenty-one full- and part-time positions have been created within community development and nonprofit organizations which are assisting PSE&G in identifying eligible homes.

The PSE&G Residential Whole House Efficiency Program provides eligible homeowners and tenants with free or low cost energy saving services in three simple steps.

The home energy audits are free, and improvements will be performed by crews trained by PSE&G to perform this work.

Eligible customers receive up to \$1,400 in free services from PSE&G that include an energy audit, testing to detect air leaks, air-sealing to prevent energy loss, appliance safety testing and information about energy efficiency. Audit report results are given to the customer, who may then choose to install recommended energy efficiency measures.

Step 1 includes a free in-home energy audit and the installation of up to 10 compact fluorescent lights.

Step 2 includes a second in-home visit, during which free home health and safety testing is conducted as well as up to eight hours of weatherization services. Services may include air-sealing, caulking, weather stripping, and a programmable thermostat.

During Step 2 the customer also receives a detailed audit report explaining the results of the audit and a list of recom

mended energy savings upgrades that could include measures as installing attic insulation or upgrading the heating system. For customers who choose to pursue Step 3, a PSE&G-authorized contractor will visit the home and provide cost estimates for the work to be completed.

Steps 1 and 2 are offered free of charge. The cost for Step 3 depends on the energy efficiency measures recommended by the audit, the cost of those measures and the customer's household.

Repayment will be made over five years through a fixed monthly charge on a customer's utility bill. If the home is landlord owned, the landlord will be billed for the cost of the efficiency measures.

Information about the programs is available online at [www.pseg.com/whole house](http://www.pseg.com/whole_house), by calling 800-854-4444, or by visiting one of PSE&G's 16 customer service centers.