



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GREEN FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

The following is a compilation of financial incentives for environmental improvements that are available to residents of the District of Columbia. Many of these incentives target District homeowners and renters, but some are also available to commercial property or business owners and non-profit organizations. The incentives listed in this are organized into four categories: (1) energy, (2) water, (3) hazard mitigation, and (4) transportation. To recommend additional incentives for this document, please contact Dan Guilbeault at dan.guilbeault@dc.gov or (202) 281-3957, or Mary Lynn Wilhere at marylynn.wilhere@dc.gov or (202) 535-1939. Please see individual contacts for questions on specific programs. Please note that website links are subject to change as DDOE updates its website in Spring 2012.

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LEGEND



Homeowner



Renter



Business/Commercial Property Owner



Non-profit Organization

ENERGY

1. Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Audit (DDOE)

The Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Audit measures a home's energy efficiency and compares energy costs of homes—an important consideration in determining home value. DDOE offers FREE professional energy audits of single-family homes and townhomes in the District, valued between \$300 and \$500. Auditors evaluate homes and recommend specific cost-effective, energy efficient improvements. The HERS audit, if accompanied by suggested improvements, may also help homeowners qualify for lower rate mortgages and improve the home's marketability.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: Must be the owner of a single-family house or townhome (no condos or co-ops) 4,000 square feet or less.

Availability: Approximately 1,250 home energy audits will be performed in fiscal year 2012; however, there is currently a significant waiting list.

Application Process: Complete an online application on green.dc.gov. You will receive an email within one month confirming you are on the waiting list and an expected wait time.

Website: green.dc.gov. Click "Free Home Energy Audits" under Energy.

Contact: LaKeisha Smith (lakeisha.lockwood@dc.gov or 202-673-6733)

2. Weatherization Assistance Program (DDOE)

Weatherization makes homes more energy efficient, and reduces heating and cooling costs. Low-income District residents may be eligible for assistance of between \$3,500 to \$6,500 in energy efficient home improvements such as heating and cooling systems repair, weather stripping, insulation, and the installation and repair of windows and doors.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: Residents must meet Federal Income Guidelines (approximately \$41,000 for a four person household). Check website below for specific income limits. Renters may participate, but must have written permission of homeowner. In order to measure program effectiveness, participants must agree to provide energy bills for 24 months before and after appliance replacement.

Availability: There is currently no waiting list, but approximately 1,200 households are expected to apply for the 550 available slots.

Application Process: Consult Federal Income Guidelines at the website below for eligibility. If eligible, apply online or call 311 to make an appointment. Ask for "Energy Assistance - Weatherization." The DDOE Energy Office will contact you to schedule an energy audit of your home. Once the audit is completed, a contractor will be hired to install some of the recommended measures.

Website: www.ddoe.dc.gov. Click "Energy Assistance" under Energy and choose "Get help weatherizing your home."

Contact: All initial public calls should be directed to the weatherization hotline (202-673-6700).

3. Small Business Energy Efficiency Program (DDOE)

The Small Business Energy Efficiency Program provides technical and financial assistance to help small businesses identify and install energy efficient measurements in their facilities. The program offers up to \$7,000 for improvements such as air sealing, insulation, heating and cooling system repair or replacement, hot water tank repair or replacement, and high efficiency lighting (no roof repairs, or lead, moisture, asbestos or mold remediation work permitted) to help businesses reduce energy consumption and operating costs.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: Businesses must be certified as a Small Business with the Department of Small and Local Business Development. Businesses should have no more than 15 full-time equivalent employees and less than one million dollars in annual revenue.

Availability: The District has authorized funding for 11 business energy efficiency improvements in fiscal year 2012. There is currently no waiting list for the program, however, applications typically move quickly, so businesses are encouraged to apply early.

Application Process: Contact William Fesson below to initiate application process.

Contact: William Fesson (william.fesson@dc.gov or 202-673-6741).

4. Non-profit Energy Efficiency Program (DDOE)

The Non-profit Energy Efficiency Program offers qualifying non-profit organizations a free energy audit and up to \$30,000 in matching funds for installing energy efficient measures. Eligible organizations will receive a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$30,000 for improvements such as air sealing, insulation, heating and cooling system repair or replacement, hot water tank repair or replacement, and high efficiency lighting (no roof repairs, or lead, moisture, asbestos or mold remediation work permitted).

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: 501(c) 3 non-profit organizations that provide shelter for homeless persons, residential treatment centers, certain faith-based institutions, and other organizations that serve limited income persons at risk of homelessness, victims of domestic violence, and mentally ill persons.

Organizations must own their building (long term leases will be considered on case-by-case basis) and be directly responsible for paying utility bills (and have access to at least previous two years of utility bills).

Organization must be willing to develop an energy education and conservation plan that will identify and implement new behaviors and policies regarding energy consumption. Organizations must, at minimum, match the District's funds to pay for the energy improvements.

Availability: Funding is available for 13 non-profit organizations. There is currently no waiting list.

Application Process: Contact Michael Negussie below to initiate application process.

Contact: Michael Negussie (michael.negussie@dc.gov or 202-673-6742)

5. Condominium and Cooperative Energy Efficiency Program (DDOE)

The Condominium and Cooperative Energy Efficiency program identifies and installs energy efficient improvements in condominium and cooperative buildings in the District. The program provides a comprehensive retro-commissioning study (RCx), financial analyses to help correct deficiencies, and follow-up performance tracking. Participating associations may receive a dollar-for-dollar match for up to \$30,000 for improvements such as air sealing, insulation, heating and cooling system repair or replacement, hot water tank repair or replacement, and high efficiency lighting (no roof repairs, or lead, moisture, asbestos or mold remediation work permitted). Resident-owners and associations of condominium and cooperative buildings are eligible to participate in this program.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: Condominium and co-op buildings built before 1978 or those currently being rehabilitated are targets for program. Building owners must, at minimum, match the District's funds to pay for the energy improvements.

Availability: Funding is available in fiscal year 2012 to support 16 buildings. There is currently no waiting list.

Application Process: Contact William Fesson below to initiate application process.

Contact: William Fesson (william.fesson@dc.gov or 202-673-6741).

6. Renewable Energy Incentive Program (DDOE)

The Renewable Energy Incentive Program provides up to \$33,000 per site to eligible applicants, for the installation of a solar photovoltaic or wind turbine systems. Additional technology rebates, including solar thermal water and space heating, geothermal HVAC, and biomass may soon be available.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: Eligible projects include, but are not limited to single- and multi-family dwellings, as well as commercial and institutional buildings. Federal and District government buildings are not eligible.

Availability: At least \$2 million is available in program funding in fiscal year 2012. A waiting list currently exists, but if funding runs out for this program year, reservation numbers will be held for 12 months.

Application Process: Contact a local vendor to assess your site and system needs, and complete a prequalification application using information from the assessment. Once prequalified, you will be issued a reservation number. If funds are available, a licensed installer can assist in submitting the full program application, which is required to receive a rebate.

Website: www.green.dc.gov. Click "Green Energy DC" under Energy.

Contact: Olayinka Kolawole (202-671-4096 or olayinka.kolawole@dc.gov) or Daniel White (202-299-2163 or daniel.white2@dc.gov)

WATER

1. RiverSmart Homes Program (DDOE)

RiverSmart Homes reduces the amount of stormwater runoff carrying pollutants from entering the District's rivers and streams. District homeowners are eligible to receive a free professional stormwater retention and treatment audit of their property, and up to \$1,200 toward installation of stormwater measures, such as tree planting, rain barrels, pervious pavers, rain gardens, or BayScaping. In addition to attractive landscaping, these improvements may lower your water bill, heating and cooling bills, and increase your property value. Participants are expected to contribute approximately 10% of total project cost.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: All District homeowners with yards are eligible (excluding commercial owners of large complexes). Renters must have landlord's written permission to participate in the program.

Availability: Approximately \$1,000,000 is available in program funding in fiscal year 2012. There is currently a 2-3 month waiting list to receive the Stormwater Site Audit, which is required for participation in RiverSmart Homes.

Application Process: Complete an online application at the website below or contact Jennifer Guillaume below to enroll. You will be contacted within 4-6 months to schedule a Stormwater Site Audit.

Website: www.ddoe.dc.gov. Click "Water in the District" then "RiverSmart Homes" under the Watershed Protection Division.

Contact: Jennifer Guillaume (jennifer.guillaume@dc.gov or 202-535-2252)

2. RiverSmart Communities Program (DDOE)

The RiverSmart Communities program is an extension of the RiverSmart Homes program to multi-family residences such as condominiums, co-ops apartments, and houses of worship. The current program, RiverSmart Homes targets private, single-family homeowners to encourage the use of five specific stormwater BMPs (rain gardens, BayScaping, pervious pavement, rain barrels, and shade trees) to control nonpoint source pollution on their property. The RiverSmart Communities Program aims to implement similar practices on a larger scale that is more appropriate for the increased runoff area often seen on multi-family housing complexes.

Grant funding is available to assist for stormwater BMPs such as:

- Cisterns for rain capture and reuse
- Rain gardens
- Impervious surface removal or conversion of impermeable to pervious pavement
- Turf removal with conversion to native plant beds
- Or other landscape enhancements with stormwater capture capability

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: All District commercial and non-profit owners of large properties.

Availability: Approximately \$300,000 is available in program funding in fiscal year 2012.

Application Process: Complete an online application at the website below or contact Leah Lemoine below to enroll. You will be contacted to schedule a Stormwater Site Audit.

Website: www.ddoe.dc.gov. Click "Water in the District" then "RiverSmart Communities" under the Watershed Protection Division.

Contact: Leah Lemoine (leah.lemoine@dc.gov or 202-654-6131)

3. RiverSmart Rooftops Program (DDOE)

The RiverSmart Rooftops Program is a green roof installation incentive program designed to reduce stormwater runoff in the District. Base funding of \$5 per square foot of green roof is available. Additional funding may be available for features that advance environmental goals. *NOTE: Funds will not become available until June 2012.*

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: Must be a District property owner. New construction projects of up to 5,000 square feet are eligible to receive funding; retrofit projects of any size are eligible.

Availability: \$300,000 is expected to be available for fiscal year 2012; however, the program will continue to draw on the existing queue so apply early.

Application Process: Visit the website below to begin the application process. Applicants must submit structural analysis from registered engineer, green roof plans, installation schedule, and a two year maintenance plan to the website below.

Website: www.anacostiaaws.org/programs/stewardship/green-roofs

Contact: Anacostia Watershed Society (301-699-6204 or greenroofs@anacostiaaws.org)

4. Rain Barrel Rebate (DC Greenworks)

Rain barrels capture and store rainwater from rooftops, which can then be used to water landscaped areas or other purposes. In addition to the RiverSmart Homes program, rebates of up to \$100 for the purchase of a rain barrel (\$50 for 50-74 gallon capacity and \$100 for 75 gallons or more capacity) are available through DC Greenworks.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: District homeowners planning to purchase and install an approved rain barrel over 50 gallons in size. For specifics on barrel requirements, see DC Greenworks website listed below. Limit two rain barrels per property.

Availability: Approximately 100 rain barrels will be installed. There is currently no waiting list to participate.

Application Process: Download an application from the website below or call the number below to request an application. Assess your site to determine location, volume, and type of barrel using the form. Then purchase and install the appropriate barrel and submit the rebate application.

Website: www.dcgreenworks.org. Click "Rain Barrel Rebate Program!" on right side.

Contact: Cody Schank (cody@dcgreenworks.org or 202-518-6195)

5. Shade Tree Rebate

Shade trees improve the health of local streams and waterways by reducing stormwater runoff and erosion. In addition to the RiverSmart Homes program, rebates of up to \$100 for the purchase of a shade tree (\$50 for small and medium canopy trees including standard-size fruit trees and \$100 for large canopy trees (see website below for exact species)) are available through Casey Trees.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: District homeowners planning to purchase and plant a non invasive tree on residential property. For specifics on tree requirements, see Casey Trees website listed below. Limit three rebates per property.

Availability: Approximately 700 rebates will be issued in fiscal year 2012.

Application Process: Download and submit a tree rebate form from the website below. Each form allows two trees to be listed. Include purchase receipt for each tree listed. There is no maximum number of rebates allowed per property. Rebate requests are subject to approval by Casey Trees.

Website: <http://caseytrees.org/programs/planting/rebate/>

Contact: Jim Woodworth (jwoodworth@caseytrees.org or 202-349-1904)

6. Rain Garden and Installation of Pervious Pavers Rebate – Coming Soon!

Rain Gardens manage stormwater on-site by intercepting and filtering pollutants such as fertilizers and pesticides, and other pollutants washing off of impervious surfaces. Rain Gardens also increase the amount of water filtering into the ground and helps protect communities from flooding and drainage problems.

Pervious pavers improve the health of local streams and waterways by producing substantially less stormwater runoff than conventional pavements. In addition to the RiverSmart Homes program, rebates of up to \$500 for the installation of either a rain garden or pervious pavers.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: District homeowners planning to install either a rain garden or pervious pavers on residential property. Specific requirements coming soon!

Availability: Funding will be available starting April 22, 2012. Approximately 100 rebates will be issued in fiscal year 2012.

Application Process: Visit the site below to select a vendor, install your project, then register your project on the website below or call the number below to request an application.

Website: <http://greenup.dc.gov/Default.aspx>

Contact: Jennifer Guillaume (jennifer.guillaume@dc.gov or 202-535-2252)

7. RiverSmart Rewards, a Stormwater Fee Discount Program – Coming Soon! (DDOE)

The District Department of the Environment is currently developing a stormwater fee discount program called RiverSmart Rewards. Once available (expected in late 2012), the program will provide water and sewer ratepayers the opportunity to receive a discount of up to 55% off the stormwater fee that appears on their DC Water bill. This discount is provided to ratepayers who implement measures to manage and reduce stormwater runoff on their property.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: In order to be eligible, the ratepayer must: submit a complete application to DDOE and be current in all payments of the stormwater fee to DC Water. Eligible stormwater best management practices include, but may not be limited to, the following: bioretention, green roofs, permeable pavement systems, stormwater infiltration systems, and rainwater harvest and reuse. The practices must be fully functional, maintained, and pass DDOE inspection.

Availability: Available to all District water and sewer ratepayers that meet the program's eligibility requirements.

Application Process: Once the program is available, water and sewer ratepayers will be able to apply electronically or by mail. Contact Emily Rice to be placed on the RiverSmart Rewards mailing list.

Website: ddoe.dc.gov. RiverSmart Rewards page is currently under development.

Contact: Emily Rice (emily.rice@dc.gov; 202-535-2679)

HAZARD MITIGATION

1. Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup Program (DDOE)

The Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup Program provides funding for Phase I environmental assessments required for brownfield redevelopment. Additional available services include Phase I and Phase II site assessment reviews, technical advice for assessment preparation, program eligibility determination, assessment and cleanup plan review and approval, monitoring and compliance tracking, cleaned properties tracking, and education.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: District property owners, operators or developers that did not cause or contribute to the contamination may apply. The site may not be listed on the US EPA National Priority List, be the subject of a current cleanup action, or have had prior involvement with the District or Federal environmental regulatory programs. No other brownfield grant funds may be used in conjunction with this program.

Availability: Approximately \$230,000 in program funding remains for fiscal year 2012.

Application Process: Download an application at the website below. Submit a completed application, along with a completed Phase I site assessment and application fee in person or by mail. If application is found to be sufficient and eligible, a 21 day public comment period will be provided, after which the applicant will be notified within 90 days. The applicant will then implement proposal, report back within 30 days, and file a Certificate of Completion with the Recorder of Deeds the Office of Tax Revenue.

Website: www.ddoe.dc.gov. Under Services, click “Toxic Substances,” then “Voluntary Cleanup Program” under Land Development and Remediation Branch.

Contact: Jim Sweeney (james.sweeney@dc.gov or 202-535-2289)

2. Lead Safe Washington (LSW) (DHCD)

Lead Safe Washington provides grants of up to \$17,500 per housing unit to eligible homeowners and investor-owners of pre-1978 housing with deteriorated lead-based paint to make those units lead safe. The program also assists with unit testing to determine whether there is deteriorated lead-based paint in the home, which if present can cause serious developmental defects in young children. To be eligible, the homeowner or tenant must be low-or-moderate income. Properties must be occupied by a child less than six years of age or, in the case of rental property, available to families with a pregnant mother or children under 6 years of age.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: Owners of pre-1978 housing units with signs of deteriorated paint. *For rental units*, half of units must have incomes \leq 50% AMI, and all remaining units must be between 50% and 80% AMI. Properties with less than six units may have income requirement waived for one unit. Units must be appropriate for households with children under the age of six (i.e. no studios). *For owner-occupied units*, the owner’s income must be \leq 80% AMI, and must have a pregnant women or child under the age of six residing in or frequently visiting the unit.

Availability: 100 homes will be enrolled in fiscal year 2012. There is no waiting list for this program.

Application Process: Single family owners should make an appointment to submit an application with Housing Counseling Services (202-667-7006) or University Legal Services (202-396-1201). Multi-family property owners should call the Lead Safe Washington Hotline (202-442-7279) to apply. DHCD will assign a community based organization to conduct the income verification intake process on each tenant household in your property.

Website: www.dhcd.dc.gov. Under Services, click “Residential and Community Services,” then “Lead Safe Washington” under Home Rehabilitation Programs.

Contact: Lead Safe Washington Hotline (202-442-7279)

3. Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program (DHCD)

The Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program provides up to \$75,000 of financing for home repairs to District residents who own a single family home. Repairs include the removal of threats to health and safety, such as lead-based paint hazards. Financing includes low or zero percent amortized loans, for up to 20 years and deferred loans not payable until the home is sold, transferred or refinanced.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must own and live in their homes as their primary residence for at least three years, be current on all District and federal taxes, be unable to obtain private financing for the needed repairs, have an acceptable credit report, have current homeowners insurance, and have household incomes that are no greater than the levels found at the website below (approximately \$64,000 for a four person household).

Availability: 75 homes will be enrolled in fiscal year 2012. There is currently no waiting list for this program, but funds are awarded on a 'first come-first serve' basis so apply early.

Application Process: Call DHCD at 202-442-7200 to be put in touch with a community-based organization (CBO), who will assist you with the application process. Upon approval, you will select a contractor. All funding of contracts are between the household and DHCD; all rehabilitation, lead abatement, roof replacement and handicapped accessibility contracts are between the household and the contractor. Financing to address these hazards is provided as a five-year forgivable grant.

Website: <http://www.dhcd.dc.gov>. Under Services, click "Residential and Community Services," then "Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program" under Home Rehabilitation Programs.

Contact: For enrollment, please make contact with a CBO (call DHCD at 202-442-7200 for a list). General questions may be directed to Jean Washington (jean.washington@dc.gov or 202-442-7154).

4. Free Home Radon Test (DDOE)

Radon is naturally found in the soil but can seep into buildings through cracks, walls, and openings around floor drains, pipes, and sump pumps. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of cancer in the U.S. Free home tests are available from DDOE by request via the methods below.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: All District residents are eligible.

Availability: There is no waiting list for this program.

Application Process: Call the Radon Hotline at 202-535-2302 or visit the website below to request a free testing kit. A kit will be delivered in 1-2 weeks.

Website: www.ddoe.dc.gov. Under Services, click "Air Quality," then "Radon" near bottom of screen.

Contact: Radon Hotline (202-535-2302) or Keith Keemer (keith.keemer@dc.gov)

5. Free Home Lead Test (Lead Safe DC)

If you suspect you have lead in your home, Lead Safe DC will come to your home to perform a free preliminary lead dust test for the presence of lead. Please note this test is only used as a preliminary test for the presence of lead and further testing may be required.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: Must be a District resident living in a home built before 1978, and have a child under six years of age or a pregnant woman living in or frequently visiting your home. Preference is given to those who live in high-risk areas for lead poisoning.

Availability: There is no waiting list for this program.

Application Process: Call Lead Safe DC at the number below to apply.

Website: <http://leadsafedc.org>; <https://www.facebook.com/LeadSafeandHealthyHomesDC>

Contact: healthyhomesdc@ncc.us; Phone (202) 319-6157.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Hybrid Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption (DC DMV)

Hybrid vehicles combine clean energy of the electrical motor with the power of the gas-powered engine resulting in lower emissions and better mileage. In the District, original purchasers of a qualifying hybrid or clean fuel vehicle are eligible for an excise tax exemption and a reduced registration fee for the first period of registration. Subsequent purchasers of the same vehicle will also be eligible for an excise tax exemption.

PROGRAM DETAILS



Eligibility Requirements: Vehicles must achieve 40 miles per gallon during city driving—please refer to the website FuelEconomy.gov for a list of eligible vehicles. The original purchaser must be denoted by the Manufacture Certificate of Origin to be eligible.

Availability: This benefit is in the form of reduced fees so is not subject to limits on availability.

Application Process: Purchasers will not be charged excise fees by the dealer at time of vehicle purchase. The registration fee will be reduced during vehicle registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Website: www.dmv.dc.gov/info/hybrid_exempt.shtm

Contact: DMV Customer Service (dmv@dc.gov or 202-737-4404)

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R40913.pdf>

This report describes federal programs that provide grants, loans, loan guarantees, and other direct or indirect regulatory incentives for energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable energy. For each program, the report provides the administering agency, authorizing statute(s), annual funding, and the program expiration date. The appendixes provide summary information in a tabular format.

Appendix A lists programs administered by HUD and Treasury Department (i.e. energy-efficient mortgages) Appendix B lists an index of programs, by applicant eligibility.