



Sustainable Audubon (SA) and the Borough of Audubon (Borough) have been asked to make the Audubon community aware of an opportunity to increase the energy efficiency of their homes and possibly reduce their utility bills and related costs.

Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) in cooperation with Sustainable Jersey (SJ) is offering services and benefits that will potentially improve the efficiency of energy usage in your home. SA and the Borough are attempting to clarify the details of this Energy Efficiency Improvement Program (EEIP) as well as provide an objective perspective.

Aspects of the program that you may want to consider:

1. The Quick Home Energy Check-up (QHEC) option is a very basic evaluation done for free. A certified energy efficiency adviser will typically do an hour walk through of your home; provide recommendations; and possibly install certain energy savings products at potentially no or low cost. Other products like programmable thermostat installation are available but would require payment. QHEC should be considered more of a first step. QHEC does not preclude the other options, but they must be scheduled independently. Contact PSE&G at 1-855-846-2895 from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for information or to sign up.
2. The Home Weatherization Program for Income Qualified Customers (Weatherization) option is income qualified (See Table 1 for the primary requirement. Other requirements may also apply.). If you qualify, a more in-depth evaluation and the related report are free. You also may be eligible for installation of up to \$6,000 in energy efficiency upgrades (to include programmable Smart thermostat installation; LED lighting; wall and ceiling insulation; window, door, and duct sealing/repair; and heating and cooling equipment tune up) and up to \$1,500 in health and safety improvements (to include carbon monoxide and smoke detectors) at no cost to you. Contact PSE&G at 1-855-846-2895 from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for information or to sign up.
3. The Comfort Partners (CP) option is part of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, a program funded by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the New Jersey gas and electric public utilities. It is also an income qualified program (See Table 1 for the primary requirement. Other requirements may also apply.). If you qualify, a more in-depth evaluation and the related report are free. In most cases, program representatives will install energy saving measures that may include insulation, caulking, weatherstripping, energy-saving showerheads, and LED light bulbs at no cost to you. There is a cost limit that is calculated based on the annual amount of therms (gas and electric) used by a given household and as such this limit will vary between households. Contact New Jersey Comfort Partners at 1-888-773-8326 (Honeywell on behalf of PSE&G) (Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.) for information or to sign up.

4. The Home Performance with Energy Star (HPES) option is where the homeowner covers all costs because the income restrictions or other requirements are not met. As a result, the Weatherization or Comfort Partner options should be preferentially selected if you qualify because they are more financially advantageous.
5. Other aspects of the EEIP available include rebates for Energy Star appliances, lighting discounts for LED use, recycling of old working appliances, and heating and cooling equipment rebates. However, taking advantage of these things can be done independently of participation in QHEC, Weatherization, CP, or HPES.

Savings in utility costs have the potential to be significant. However, each case is a site-specific decision. You need to decide whether any of these options is something that is in your best interests to do. Starting the process will allow you to find out the specifics that both apply and/or are of benefit to you. Alternatively, the homeowner may choose to undertake some of the suggested efficiency measures themselves, which could improve the cost effectiveness.

SA acknowledges that issues can arise. To facilitate things, SA and the Borough have arranged for a separate resolution pathway. If you contact SA ([sustainableaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableaudubon@gmail.com)), we will pass your concerns to SJ who will then try to resolve the issue with PSE&G who is the EEIP lead company. While a desired outcome is not guaranteed, this pathway is being offered to encourage and facilitate the participation of Audubon residents.

Again, this is an outreach program that is intended to make you aware of opportunities available to Audubon residents that you may not have known about or possibly were unclear about. Above all, the goal of increased energy efficiency is extremely desirable from an overall environmental perspective.

Robert Jakubowski, Mayor, Audubon

Jeanne Mugler, Sustainable Audubon

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 Table 1: The annual household income limits to qualify for the options are (partial listing):

Family Size	Comfort Partners Option	Weatherization Option	Home Performance with Energy Star Option
1	\$0 - \$37,650	\$37,651 – \$60,240	\$60,241+
2	\$0 – \$51,100	\$51,101 - \$81,760	\$81,761+
3	\$0 - \$64,550	\$64,551 - \$103,280	\$103,281+
4	\$0 - \$78,000	\$78,001 - \$124,800	\$124,801+

Note: The Quick Home Energy Checkup Option is available for free to all.