

From the President's Desk



Dear Valued Customer,

We appreciate your business. We know you have a choice in home comfort and fuel providers and that is why we are so committed to offering you the best in customer service.

One of the ways we bring you great service is by providing you with timely information in this newsletter. Now, with our Website all spiffed up, you can access information and resources any time of the day or night. Happy surfing!

We also wish you a warm and wonderful holiday season.

Very truly yours,

David Harder, President



We make warm friends.

Energy Conservation Improvements Property Tax Exemption

Qualifying energy-conservation improvements to homes are exempt from real property taxation to the extent the addition would increase the value of the home. The exemption includes general municipal property taxes, school district taxes, and special ad valorem taxes, but does not apply to special assessments. Eligible properties include single-family to four-family dwellings.

The exemption applies directly to a variety of equipment, such as Water Heaters, Furnaces, Boilers, Heat pumps, Air conditioners, Programmable Thermostats, but the statute also states that any conservation-related state or federal tax credit or deduction is also exempt from New York's property tax under this statute. Learn more at www.orps.state.ny.us

Cash for Refrigerators?

You remember "Cash For Clunkers"? Well there is word that another program aimed at old appliances and HVAC systems is in the works. There hasn't been much talk of the program yet because it's still taking shape. We do know the government has set aside about \$300 million for states to use to give out rebates to buyers of energy-efficient appliances like freezers, refrigerators, furnaces and central air conditioners. Programs will differ in every state, and the US Department of Energy (DOE) anticipates that rebates will be available to consumers in most parts of the country by early 2010.

More than 70% of the energy used in our homes is for appliances, refrigeration, space heating, cooling, and water heating. Replacing old appliances and equipment with those that are ENERGY STAR® labeled can help American families save significantly on their utility bills. Each state and territory may select its own set of ENERGY STAR qualified products to rebate. DOE recommended the following appliances for the qualifying rebate:

- Boilers and furnaces
- Water heaters
- Central and room air conditioners
- Clothes washers and Dishwashers
- Freezers and refrigerators

More information about the rebates will be available in the coming months, so keep checking in.

The Many Opportunities to

SAVE on EFFICIENT ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

It has been quite an economic ride for this country, but some good things are starting to come into play. In fact, there are so many energy related programs and opportunities, it can be hard to keep them all straight. Whether you need a new heating or cooling system, insulation for your home, or maybe you are looking for tax credits for being energy efficient, here is your guide to the key programs that are available to consumers today from the private and public sector:

The Sidney Federal Credit Union "GO GREEN" Program

Upgrading to a new and improved heating system is a big commitment. With the "Go Green" initiative from SFCU, you can get a 1% discount off current rates if the unit meets new energy efficiency standards. That can save you meaningful dollars on your loan, so you can save on your energy bill. Find them online at www.sfuonline.org, or give them a call at 877-642-SFCU. They have offices in Bainbridge, Greene, Hancock, Norwich, Oneonta, Sidney and Walton.

Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency

If you purchase an energy-efficient product or renewable energy system for your home, you may be eligible for a federal tax credit. Products are eligible for tax credits at 30% of the cost, including labor costs, up to a total credit of \$1,500; they must be "placed in service" from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010. Energy-efficient product must be placed in service in existing homes that are a primary residence. This program is an extension of an existing incentive that was set to end in 2008.

Equipment must meet energy efficiency standards. With heating equipment the following Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) criteria applies:

- ✓ Propane Furnaces - AFUE of 95 or greater
- ✓ Oil Furnaces - AFUE of 90 or greater
- ✓ Propane, or Oil Hot Water Boilers - AFUE of 90 or greater

To claim the tax credit for energy efficient products placed in service in 2009, you will need to file the 2009 IRS Form 5695 and submit it with your 2009 taxes in April, 2010.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Weatherization assistance providers can assist eligible homeowners and owners of rental properties with measures to improve energy efficiency including, but not limited to:

- ✓ an energy audit of the home to identify specific needs;
- ✓ weatherstripping and caulking around doors and windows;
- ✓ cleaning, testing, repairs, or replacement of heating systems;
- ✓ addition of insulation to walls or ceiling;
- ✓ mitigation of health and safety concerns, in particular assure that all dwelling units receive smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Weatherization Services may also include other energy-related improvements such as: water heater repair/replacement, venting systems, heating distribution system replacement, and refrigerator replacement.

Weatherization services are available to income-eligible (60% of State median income) individuals who may be either home owners or renters living in a mobile home, an apartment, or a single-family home.

You can find out more about these services and whether you qualify by contacting the providers below.

- **Otsego County:** Opportunities for Otsego, 1-800-986-5463 or www.ofoinc.org
- **Delaware County:** Delaware Opportunities, Inc, 607-746-1605 or www.delawareopportunities.org
- **Chenango County:** Opportunities for Chenango, 607-334-7114, www.ofcinc.org
- **Schoharie County:** Community Action Program, 1-866-849-2402, www.sccapinc.org

A Little Effort Goes a Long Way

Tax credits, rebates, and stimulus packages are part of a shifting landscape, and some programs have not been fully planned out. This is just a basic list of programs. There are more out there than we can include in this limited space. The diligent and thorough consumer can get a lot of help with all kinds of home improvement work related to energy efficiency and conservation if they take the time to determine which programs can help them the most.

Two great resources for information on New York and federal incentives can be found online at:

- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, (NYSERDA) at www.nyserda.org
- U.S. Department of Energy's site at www1.eere.energy.gov/financing/consumers.html which catalogs the many federal and state programs.

Third Party Notice

There are times in life when you may be unable to contact us because you are sick, or disabled in some way. By providing our company with a third party, (i.e. friend, relative, community organization), we can find someone to contact in the event that we are forced to terminate fuel deliveries because of unpaid bills.

This "third party" is not responsible for your bill in any way. You should choose someone who will get in touch with you after receiving the notice, and help you resolve the problem. Just fill out this form and send to our office:

Reinhardt Home Heating
P.O. Box B
West Oneonta, NY 13861.

I request that any notice stating my heating fuel deliveries may be terminated due to unpaid bills should also be given to the "third party" specified below:

Name: _____ e-mail _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Acct #: _____
Signature _____ Date: _____

Name of person or organization to be notified:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

I (we) agree to receive any Notice of Termination for information purposes only, without obligation to pay amounts owed.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Some no-cost and low cost tips to help you Save on your energy bill

- ✓ Lower your thermostat at night and whenever the house is unoccupied.
- ✓ Close off and don't heat unoccupied rooms (unless you have a heat pump, or trouble from frozen pipes).
- ✓ If you consistently set your thermostat back at night 10 degrees Fahrenheit, you may reduce your heating bill by 10-20 percent.
- ✓ Lower the thermostat and dress warmer. As little as 1 to 3 degrees (F) makes a noteworthy difference in energy consumption.
- ✓ Lower the temperature on your electric water heater to 120 (F) degrees. Turn it off when leaving for extended periods of time. Electric water heaters can be set on timers; gas heaters must be set manually.
- ✓ Close your fireplace damper and seal the opening shut when not in use.
- ✓ Set refrigerator temperatures between 37 and 40 degrees (F). Clean the coils. Keep the refrigerator stocked; it takes more energy to cool an empty refrigerator.
- ✓ Consider replacing your older model refrigerator, especially if older than 10 years. Older models can often use over 3 times the energy of newer models.
- ✓ Wash full loads of dishes and air dry. When washing clothes, use warm or cold water and rinse with cold.
- ✓ Shut off lights, computers and other electronic appliances when you're not using them. Many computer monitors have a sleep mode setting which, when activated, greatly reduces energy consumption.
- ✓ Always use the bathroom or kitchen exhaust fans while showering or cooking and baking to avoid potential moisture problems.
- ✓ Install a low-flow showerhead. Showers use less hot water than baths; also consider taking shorter showers.
- ✓ During the heating season, open south-facing window coverings (e.g. drapes, blinds, etc.) during the day. Close all window coverings at night to keep the heat in.
- ✓ Install foam gaskets behind electric-outlet and switch-plate covers. Examine and adjust, if necessary, weather stripping, door sweeps, and thresholds.



Check out our NEW WEBSITE

In an effort to serve you better we have just completed a MAJOR upgrade to our company website. The new website has information about all the products and services we offer, in an easy to navigate environment. We have special sections for Customer Support that includes online bill paying, as well as a Learning Center that will be a great resource to all our customers, as well as visitors to the site.

We hope you will take some time to get to know us better by heading over to www.reinhardthomeheating.com

We think you will like what you see!

Highlights from the US Govt's Energy Information Agency's

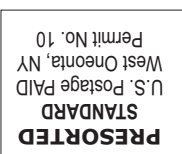
Short-Term Energy and Winter Fuels Outlook

EIA projects average household expenditures for space-heating fuels to be \$960 this winter (October 1 to March 31), a decrease of \$84, or 8 percent, from last winter. This forecast principally reflects lower fuel prices, although expected slightly milder weather than last winter will also contribute to lower fuel use in many areas.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) most recent projection of heating degree-days, the Lower-48 States are forecast to be 1 percent warmer this winter compared with last winter and 1 percent milder than the average.

Of course, it can be a fool's game to predict the weather, or energy prices, too far in advance. The take home message is we are seeing a settling of fuel prices from a year ago, and the coming heating season looks mild to normal for degree days. Not a bad forecast overall!

or current resident



Reinhardt Home Heating
P.O. Box B
West Oneonta, NY 13861

