

FREMONT ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Fremont Energy Committee is a volunteer group that has focused on reducing energy costs and the carbon impact of energy use through energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. Significant effort is underway for energy reviews of Town and School buildings and to identify projects and funding to improve energy efficiency.

Another initiative is to provide information to Fremont residents regarding tax incentives and other resources available to them. The incentives are intended to encourage home owners and consumers to reduce their energy use and costs through energy efficiency and to move toward the use of renewable energy sources which have less carbon impact on our environment.

TAX INCENTIVES ~ UTILITY REBATES

For more information go to:

www.energystar.gov/taxcredits; www.energytaxincentives.org; www.dsireusa.org/

UNITED STATES IRS

Homes:

30% tax credit up to \$1,500

- Exterior Shell - energy efficient doors, windows, insulation and certain types of roofing
- Heating and air conditioning- certain types of systems and system efficiency improvements. Biomass stoves (which includes wood pellet stoves) are included

30% tax credit (no cap)

- Alternative energy systems such as solar, small wind and geothermal

Vehicles:

Certain types of hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles are eligible for a tax credits up to \$7,500. The incentive programs are changing so it would important to verify what the current programs are at the time a purchase is being considered.

Appliances:

On April 19, 2010 a federal funded program for appliance rebates began. The funds are distributed through the individual states and the eligible appliances vary by state. New Hampshire has \$1,262,000 and the program will end when these funds are expended. For more information go to www.energysavers.gov or www.nh.gov/oep/recovery/seearp.htm.

FREMONT LOCAL PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVES

At the 2009 Town Meeting the voters approved property tax assessment exemptions for solar and wind alternative energy improvements to residential property. The wood energy systems exemption article did not pass and a geothermal system exemption is not currently available in the State of New Hampshire.

The local property tax exemption form is available in the Selectmen's Office. In addition to the tax exemption process, anyone considering small wind energy systems must get a permit through the Building Inspector. Solar energy enhancements should be reviewed by the Building Inspector and may be subject to permits depending on the size, weight, and the overall design of the system. Small wind and solar energy systems intended for commercial applications would also be subject to review by the Planning Board.

OTHER RESOURCES

HOME WEATHERIZATION: A great way to save on heating and cooling costs. There are funds available to home owners and renters within certain income limits. For information call Community Action in Portsmouth @ 603-431-2911.

NH CARBON CHALLENGE: Program for households to assess and reduce their "carbon footprint". Email / Website: julia@nhcc.unh.edu or www.carbonfootprint.com.

CAR POOLING: New Hampshire Ride Share 1-800-462-8707.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Automobile: Tune-ups, proper tire inflation and maintaining 55 mph can save over 30% in fuel costs.

Lighting: Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights. Replacing a 1000 hour rated incandescent with a 12,000 hour rated CFL will save approximately \$100 over the life of the CFL.

Recycle: FYI, recycling one aluminum can save enough energy to operate a TV set for 3-6 hours; recycling one ton of paper can save 380 gallons of oil and 7000 gallons of water. Also, the tipping fees to dispose of our household trash are increasing, but there is no cost to the Town to dispose of recycled material. Currently the tipping fee on a ton of trash is \$66.42 and Bulky waste is \$80.17 per ton.

Appliances: The following practices will save \$ and reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions: Purchase Energy Star Appliances -Tax rebates are available, operating costs are less. Set water heaters to 120 degrees and place insulation wrap on older water heaters.

Monitor Energy Consumption: Visit the Fremont Library or the Town Hall to borrow a Kill-a-Watt meter and information on energy savings. The meter will measure power usage on electrical devices and are easy to use.

For additional information please refer to the Energy Committee section of the Town website: www.Fremont.nh.gov