

January 23, 2013

Free home energy audits available – while they last!

Does your winter home energy bill give you the shivers? Sign up for a home energy audit and learn how to save energy and save money.

Seventy-five home energy audit rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis for Campbell River residents. The rebates are valued at \$150 plus tax and cover the cost of an energy assessment conducted by a certified energy advisor.

“By participating in this program, home owners will learn ways to reduce energy use, add value to their home, and help lower greenhouse gas emissions in Campbell River,” says Councillor Larry Samson. *“What we do locally can help reduce carbon emissions on a more global scale, and this is another way we can do our part.”*

The Energy Rebate Program is a key step in implementing the City’s Community Energy and Emissions Plan. Buildings represent approximately 51 per cent of energy use and 23 per cent of Campbell River’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Residents interested in participating in the rebate program can access a rebate number and voucher form from the City of Campbell River.

“We expect the home energy audit rebates to be very popular and go quickly. We recommend that residents contact the City for a voucher number prior to booking their home energy audit to be sure that rebates are still available,” says Amber Zirnhelt, sustainability manager.

The rebate program is in effect for energy audits starting Jan. 1, 2013, while quantities last. The program is sponsored by BC Hydro in support of its mandate to conserve energy to help meet BC’s growing demand for electricity.

The program compliments the Live Smart BC Energy Efficiency Incentive Program, which offers more than \$12,000 in incentives for home energy-saving upgrades ranging from insulation, windows and solar hot water to heat pumps and more. The Live Smart BC program runs until Mar. 31, 2013 and requires energy audits before and after retrofits. Learn more at: www.livesmartbc.ca/incentives/efficiency-home/index.html.

Campbell River home owners are eligible for one rebate per household – even if they’re not participating in the Live Smart BC program.

To participate in the program, home owners will be required to make an *“Energy Pledge”* committing to an energy reduction in their home. Energy pledges could include building retrofits or upgrades to insulation, weather stripping, caulking and appliances or changing habits such as committing to unplug household appliances when not in use, turning out the lights or other energy-saving initiatives.

To access a rebate number, voucher and learn more about the program, contact Amber Zirnhelt via email amber.zirnhelt@campbellriver.ca or telephone 250-286-5742. More information is available online at www.campbellriver.ca/residents/greencity.

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Contact: Amber Zirnhelt, Sustainability Manager City of Campbell River

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