

Congressman

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Representing the 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania

POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE PROJECTS FOR CONSUMERS



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➤ <u>Introduction</u>	Page 2
➤ <u>Grant & Loan Opportunities</u>	Page 3
○ Weatherization Assistance Program.....	Page 3
○ Pennsylvania Sunshine Program.....	Page 4
○ PA Public Utility Programs.....	Page 4
○ Low Income Home Energy Assistance	Page 7
○ Keystone HELP® Loan/Rebate Program.....	Page 8
○ Renewable Geothermal/Wind Energy Program....	Page 9
○ High Performance Building Program.....	Page 9
➤ <u>Tax Credits</u>	Page 11
○ ENERGY STAR.....	Page 11
○ Residential Renewable Federal Credit.....	Page 11
○ Alternative Energy Production Credit.....	Page 12
➤ <u>Additional Information</u>	Page 13

Introduction

Dear Friend:

As gas prices hit \$4 per gallon or higher last year, it became clear that energy costs are causing an enormous financial burden on American families and the United States needs to move toward becoming more energy independent.

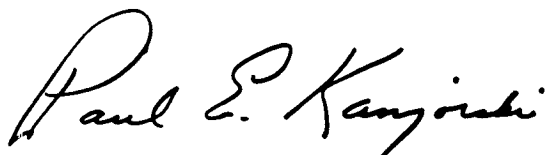
From my perspective, we need to explore all options as we move to becoming more energy independent. We should consider offshore drilling, expand nuclear energy, and develop clean coal, solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, hydropower and natural gas energy sources.

Over the past several years, Congress has passed numerous pieces of legislation to help ease the burden of high energy costs for the American consumer. With my support, Congress has worked to provide nearly \$50 billion in grants, loans, loan guarantees, tax credits and research funding to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and expand renewable energy production.

As is the case with most federal funding, the majority of funds for renewable energy initiatives are distributed to state governments to administer. In an effort to help consumers understand what federal and state programs are available for various renewable energy initiatives, I have created this guidebook. Its contents are by no means comprehensive and should be used to serve as a starting point.

As always, I stand ready to assist you and hope the information provided in this guidebook proves useful to you. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at (800) 222-2346.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Kanjorski
Member of Congress

Grant Opportunities

Weatherization Assistance Program

<http://www.newpa.com>

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (Weatherization) reduces energy costs for low-income families by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety. By reducing the energy bills of low-income families instead of offering aid, weatherization reduces dependency and liberates these funds for spending on more pressing family issues. On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 32% and overall energy bills.

The Weatherization Assistance Program has an income requirement and you should check with your County office to determine eligibility. Further details can be found by visiting <http://www.newpa.com/strengthen-your-community/redeveloping-your-community/housing/weatherization/index.aspx>. For more information about how to apply for these funds, you will need to contact your County office at the following contact information:

Carbon County

Carbon County Action Committee for
Human Services
267 South Second Street
Lehighton, PA 18235-1412
Phone: (610) 377-6400
Fax: (610) 377-3431

Columbia County

SEDA-Council of Governments
201 Furnace Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Toll Free Phone: (800) 332-6701
Phone: (570) 524-4491 Ext. 220
Fax: (570) 524-5902

Lackawanna County

Scranton/Lackawanna Human
Development Agency
321 Spruce Street, 1st Floor
Scranton, PA 18503
Phone: (570) 963-6836 Ext. 2296 or
2249
Fax: (570) 496-7713

Luzerne County

Commission on Economic Opportunity
of Luzerne County
P.O. Box 1127
165 Amber Lane
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703
Phone: (570) 826-0510
Fax: (570) 829-1665

Monroe County

Monroe County Weatherization Program
P.O. Box 66
Tannersville, PA 18372
Phone: (570) 421-4436
Fax: (570) 420-9414

Pennsylvania Sunshine Program

(<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/pasunshine>)

The Pennsylvania Sunshine program offers rebates to residential and small commercial residents that install photovoltaic and solar thermal. This program was authorized in July 2008 by the state legislature and began accepting applications in May 2009 under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Only systems installed after the date of program opening are eligible for rebates.

All residential applicants must be Pennsylvania residents, own the home upon which the system is installed, and use it as a primary residence (i.e., vacation homes and investment properties do not qualify for residential rebates). Low-income residents (60% or less of median state income) are eligible for higher incentives than other applicants.

It is important to note that residents and small businesses do not submit incentive applications themselves. Applications must be submitted on behalf of the applicant by an approved installer. Households are eligible for only one photovoltaic and one solar thermal rebate. Small businesses may receive multiple rebates, but are only permitted to submit one photovoltaic application and one solar thermal application at a time and must complete the project and rebate process prior to submitting another application.

The program is set up to provide rebates that decline over time as certain benchmarks, or "steps", of installed capacity are reached. Each residential photovoltaic step contains 10 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity. Solar thermal incentives will be stepped down at intervals of 1,500 installed systems. The program website will contain a tally of installed projects to inform homeowners and installers of the incentive status.

Approved installers must perform all work and systems are subject to a variety of equipment and installation requirements. For a list of approved installers you will need to visit <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/energindependent/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=545926>. The above website also serves as the official program guidance and contains information on how to apply for these funds as well.

Energy Assistance Program through the PA Public Utility Commission

(http://www.puc.state.pa.us/General/consumer_ed/energy_asst_progs.aspx)

All residential customers may contact their electric or natural gas company and request budget billing at any time. Budget bill results in each monthly bill being the same amount. The company may adjust the bill four times a year, up or down, depending on the customer's usage.

Below you will find a brief description of the programs offered through your electric or natural gas company.

Customer Assistance Program (CAP) – This program can lower your monthly utility bill. CAPs may also remove the amount you already owe. The different CAP names are shown beside the company names below. The company works with the customer to determine what the customer can pay versus the cost of energy used.

Customer Assistance Referral and Evaluation Program (CARES) – The CARES program helps customers with special needs. CARES may help you find ways to pay your utility bill. For example, special needs are customers who are experiencing family emergencies, divorce, unemployment, or medical emergencies. The goal is to provide support and direction to help customers pay their utility bills.

Low-Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP) – Helps low-income residential customers lower the amount of electricity or natural gas used each month. Typically, the company may install energy saving features in your home to help reduce bills. For example, smaller bills mean your payment covers a greater portion of the bill, or perhaps covers the whole bill.

Hardship Funds – Provides cash assistance to utility customers to help them pay their utility bills. Hardship funds provide assistance grants to customers who "fall through the cracks" of other financial assistance programs, or to those who still have a critical need for assistance after the other resources have been exhausted. The funds make payments directly to companies on behalf of eligible customers.

Customers must meet certain income limits and be payment-troubled to qualify for CAP, CARES, LIURP and Hardship Funds. Payment-troubled usually means customers have made a payment agreement with the company. The chart below shows the income levels customers must meet for CAP. The income levels are slightly higher for LIURP, CARES and Hardship Funds. Customers who meet these limits, should call their local electric or natural gas company for details to see if you qualify. Each company's toll-free number is listed below.

Household Size Monthly Income

<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>Monthly Income Level</u>
1	\$ 1,354
2	\$ 1,821
3	\$ 2,289
4	\$ 2,756
5	\$3,224
6	\$3,691
7	\$4,159
8	\$4,626
9	\$5,094

Utility Company Assistance Program Contact Numbers

<i>Utility Company</i>	<i>Utility Assistance Contact Number</i>
Allegheny Power (LIPURP)	(800) 207-1250
Duquesne (CAP)	(888) 393-7600
Met-Ed (CAP)	(800) 207-9276
PECO (CAP Rate)	(800) 744-7040
Penelec (CAP)	(800) 207-9276
Penn Power (CAP)	(800) 207-9276
PPL (OnTrack)	(800) 358-6623
UGI-Electric (LISHP)	(800) 340 5394
Columbia (CAP)	(800) 537-7431
Dominion Peoples (CA)	(800) 400-9276 (WARM)
Equitable (EAP)	(412) 395-3050 - Allegheny Co. (800) 654-6335 - Outside Allegheny Co.
NFG(LIRA)	(800) 365-3234
PG Energy (Partner's Program)	(800) 490-8605
PGW(CRP)	(215) 235-1000
PPL Gas (CAP)	(800) 652-0550
TW Phillips (EHF)	(866) 276-4055
UGI - Gas (LISHP)	(800) 340-5394
Pennsylvania American Water (H2O-Help to Others) (Dollar Energy Fund)	(800) 565-7293
	(800) 717-7292
	(800) 474-7292
Aqua (A Helping Hand)	(610) 376-6571
	(570) 265-6415 or (570) 278-3338
	(215) 785-3296
	(610) 436-4040
	(610) 874-8451 or (610) 583-9133
	(814) 643-3010
	(724) 658-7664
	(800) 489-1633
	(610) 277-6363
	(570) 644-6570
	(570) 622-1995
	(717) 731-8120
(570) 374-0181	

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
(<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/LIHEAP/>)

LIHEAP is a federally funded block grant program that is implemented at the State level. The program helps low income individuals pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants and crisis grants.

Assistance Grants or Cash grants provide a direct payment to your utility company or fuel provider, and it will be credited on your bill. Crisis grants help families who have an emergency and are in danger of being with out heat. Emergency situations include: having broken heating equipment or leaking lines, fuel shortage that may leave you without heat and having utility service shut off service.

You do not have to be on public assistance, have unpaid heating bills or own your home to qualify for LIHEAP. Individuals must meet the following income limits to be eligible:

<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Income Limit</i>
1	\$23,110
2	\$30,221
3	\$37,332
4	\$44,443
5	\$51,554
6	\$58,665
7	\$59,998
8	\$61,332
9	\$62,665
10	\$64,200
Each Additional Person Add	\$5,400

You can apply for these funds online by visiting <http://www.compass.state.pa.us> or by contacting your local county assistance office at the following contact information:

Carbon County Assistance Office
 101 Lehigh Drive
 Lehighton, PA 18235
 Phone: (610) 577-9020
 LIHEAP Cash: (610) 577-9073
 LIHEAP Crisis: (610) 377-6400
 Fax: (610) 577-9043

Columbia County Assistance Office
 27 East Seventh Street
 P.O. Box 628
 Bloomsburg, PA 17815
 Toll Free: (877) 211-1322
 Phone: (570) 387-4200
 LIHEAP: (570) 387-4232
 Fax: (570) 387-4708

Lackawanna County Assistance Office
 200 Scranton State Office Building
 100 Lackawanna Avenue
 Scranton, PA 18503

Monroe County Assistance Office
 Business Route 209 South at Tanite Rd
 P.O. Box 232
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Toll Free: (877) 431-1887
Phone: (570) 963-4525
LIHEAP Cash: (570) 963-4842
LIHEAP Crisis: (570) 963-6836
Fax: (570) 963-4843

Toll Free: (877) 905-1495
Phone: (570) 424-3030
LIHEAP: (570) 424-3517
Fax: (570) 424-3915

Luzerne County Assistance Offices

Wilkes-Barre District

205 South Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
Phone: (570) 826-2100
LIHEAP: (570) 826-2041
LIHEAP Crisis: (570) 826-0510
Fax: (570) 826-2178

Hazleton District

Center Plaza Building
10 West Chestnut Street
Hazleton, PA 18201
Phone: (570) 459-3800
LIHEAP: (570) 459-3834
Fax: (570) 459-3931

Keystone HELP® Loan/Rebate Program

[\(http://www.keystonehelp.com/\)](http://www.keystonehelp.com/)

Pennsylvania homeowners can improve the energy efficiency of their homes with special financing and rebates for high efficiency heating, air conditioning, insulation, windows, doors, geothermal and “whole house” improvements using Home Performance with ENERGY STAR. The Program is administered by AFC First Financial Corporation in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Treasury Department and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

Pennsylvania homeowners who own and are making qualifying improvements to their 1 or 2 unit primary residence located in Pennsylvania and whose combined annual household income is \$150,000 or less are eligible to apply for a loan or rebate under the Keystone HELP Program. Solar projects are not eligible under this program.

An eligible applicant is permitted to receive only one rebate or loan during each fiscal year, which is defined as the period from July 1 until the following June 30. Eligible applicants may apply for additional rebates or loans in future years, as long as the additional projects comply with the published guidelines current at the time of application.

Eligible improvements must be installed by a Keystone HELP approved contractor. There are currently over 1,600 approved contractors in Pennsylvania. You can view the list of approved contractors by visiting the official Keystone HELP Contactor website by visiting <http://www.keystonehelp.com/info/approvedcontractors.php>.

For more information and to learn how to apply for these funds, you should visit Keystone HELP website at <http://www.keystonehelp.com/> or call toll free at (888) 232-3477 or (610) 433-7486.

Renewable Energy Program – Geothermal and Wind Projects

The Renewable Energy Program provides financial assistance in the forms of grants and loan funds to promote the use of alternative energy through Geothermal and Wind Projects. The program is administered jointly by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under the direction of Commonwealth Financing Agency.

Individuals residing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and seeking to install a geothermal heating and cooling system in a dwelling they currently occupy as their primary residence qualify for this program.

Eligible projects are geothermal technologies, including closed loop geothermal heat pump systems that use the ground, ground water and underground mine water as an energy source; and wind energy, including facilities to produce or distribute wind generated energy as well as manufacturing facilities for wind turbines and other energy components.

The maximum grant amount for a geothermal system or a wind energy generation or distribution project shall not exceed \$1 million. The maximum loan amount for a geothermal system or a wind energy generation or distribution project shall not exceed \$5 million.

This program has a matching funds requirement of \$1 for every \$1 of program funds awarded.

For more information or to learn how to apply for this program, you should visit the DCED website at <http://www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/funding-and-program-finder/funding-detail/index.aspx?progId=191>.

High Performance Building Program

<http://www.newpa.com>

The High Performance Building Program provides financial assistance in the form of grant or loan funds that will be used by eligible applicants to underwrite the cost premiums associated with the design and construction or major renovation of high performance buildings in the Commonwealth. The Program is administered jointly by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), under the direction of the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA).

For the purposes of this program an individual is any person engaged in the construction or renovation of a dwelling that he or she currently occupies or will occupy as a primary residence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The maximum grant under this program shall not exceed \$500,000 or 10% of the total eligible building construction/renovation costs, whichever is less. The maximum loan amount for individual residential projects shall not exceed \$100,000. An eligible applicant may apply for a grant or a loan, but not both for the same project. The Authority may award grants to applicant that would serve as a guarantee for the financing in the project subject to certain conditions outlined in the guidance document.

This program has a matching funds requirement of \$1 for every \$1 of program funds awarded.

To determine if your improvement plan would qualify as a High Performance Building construction project, you will need to visit <http://www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/funding-and-program-finder/funding-detail/index.aspx?progId=198>.

Tax Credits & Bonds

ENERGY STAR

<http://www.energystar.gov>

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping individuals and families save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. The program provides a 30% tax credit for qualified energy efficiency improvements during the taxable year. A flat tax credit rate cap of \$1,500 for all qualifying purchases. The tax credits are available for the purchase and installation of certain windows and doors, insulation, roofs, heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems, non-solar water heaters and biomass stoves.

Energy efficient choices can save families about a third on their energy bill with similar savings of greenhouse gas emissions, without sacrificing features, style or comfort. ENERGY STAR helps you make the energy efficient choice. If you are looking for a new home, interesting in making home improvements or purchasing household products, look for the ENERGY STAR label.

Projects must be placed in service in the primary residence from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010. Improvements made in 2009 will be claimed on your 2009 taxes by using IRS Tax Form 5695 (2009 version). The form will be available late 2009 or early 2010.

For information on what home improvements qualify for this tax credit and how to access these credits, you will need to visit the ENERGY STAR website at <http://www.energystar.gov> or call the ENERGY STAR Hotline at (888) 782-7937.

Residential Renewable Federal Tax Credit

Administered through the ENERGY STAR program, tax credits are available at 30% of the costs, with **no upper limit** for geothermal heat pumps, solar panels, solar water heater, small wind energy systems and fuel cells. Traditionally, ENERGY STAR projects are capped at a rate of \$1,500.

Projects must be placed in service between January 1, 2009 through 2016. Principal and secondary residences are eligible for this tax credit. Improvements made in 2009 will be claimed on your 2009 taxes by using IRS Tax Form 5695 (2009 version). The form will be available late 2009 or early 2010.

For more information and to learn how to access these credits, you should view the ENERGY STAR Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency website by visiting http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index.

Alternative Energy Production Tax Credit

www.dep.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Investment Act of 2008, signed into law by Governor Edward G. Rendell on July 9, 2008, established the Alternative Energy Production Tax Credit. This tax credit is available to taxpayers who develop or construct alternative energy production projects located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a useful life of at least four years. The program provides for a tax credit of 15% of the total amount of all Development, Equipment and Construction costs of the project, after all other grants and subsidies are subtracted, up to \$1,000,000 per taxpayer.

Eligible applicants include any Pennsylvania taxpayer who developed or constructed a qualifying alternative energy production project located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the stated period.

To learn about what projects are eligible for the tax credit, see the application materials for guidance for qualifying Alternative Energy Sources and a complete description of eligible projects. A wide range of projects could be eligible including projects that:

- Produce or distribute alternative energy .
- Manufacture or produce products that provide alternative energy or fuels or improve energy efficiency or conserve energy, which meet the requirements for and are registered with the U.S. EPA Energy Star Program.
- Research or develop technology to provide alternative energy sources or alternative fuels as defined by the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act.
- Develop or enhance the transportation of alternative fuels by rail.
- Improve the efficiency of locomotives.

A Pennsylvania Tax Credit of 15% of the net cost (after all other rebates and incentives) of a qualifying project up to a maximum of \$1 Million per project. Individual tax credits are subject to pro-rata to meet the legislative \$5 Million program maximum.

Applications and guidance materials can be found at www.dep.state.pa.us keyword "Alternative Energy Tax Credit".

Additional Information

- To learn how to improve the energy efficiency of your home, you should visit the Home Energy Saver website at <http://hes.lbl.gov>.
- The U.S. Department of Energy maintains a website dedicated to providing homeowners and renters information on ways to save energy and find assistance to make your home more energy efficient. (<http://www.energy.gov/yourhome.htm>)
- The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy website contains a wealth of information where you can learn how to use energy in your home more efficiently. You can also learn how to use renewable energy to provide your home with electricity, heating, cooling and water heating. (http://energysavers.gov/your_home)
- An overview of ways to save energy, find assistance to make your home energy efficient and what your state is going to help save energy. (<http://www.energy.gov/generalinformation.htm>)
- Information about beating high energy prices provided by the U.S. Department of Energy. (http://www.energy.gov/beating_high_energy_prices.htm)
- U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Financial Opportunities (<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/financing/>)
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS) information on Energy Incentives for Individuals in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus package). (http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index)
- The Database of State Incentives for Renewable & Efficiency (DSIRE) is a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility and federal incentives. (<http://www.dsireusa.org/>)
- The Tax Incentives Assistance Project (TIAP) is sponsored by a coalition of public interest non-profit groups, government agencies, and other organizations in the energy efficiency field. TIAP gives consumers the information they need to make use of federal income tax incentives for energy efficient products and technologies. (<http://energytaxincentives.org/>)
- Primary source for all federal grants (<http://www.grants.gov>)
- Catalog for Federal Domestic Assistance (<http://www.cfda.gov>)