

7-3-13

From: Dana Fischer, Residential Program Manager
Re: AIR SEALING INCENTIVE (internal known as the Residential Direct Install)

GUIDELINES FOR ENERGY ADVISORS & CONTRACTORS

For a limited time and while funds are available, the Residential Direct Install program provides up to \$600 for an "air sealing incentive" for completion of 6 hours of air-sealing and insulation work completed along recommendations provided by an energy assessment provided by a participating energy advisor. Homeowners who would like to have an audit as a precursor to air sealing or with air sealing on the same day can contact participating energy advisors and inquire about the services they provide and their participation in the direct install program. There is no requirement that all parts of the project are completed by the same company.

There is also a \$100 incentive to advisors for providing test out on projects that are projected to exceed 20% reduction in whole home energy consumption or are financed through PACE or PowerSaver loan programs.

UNITIL HEATING CUSTOMER BONUS: Available for projects entered into Survey Audit Tool on or after 10-10-12: Homes that are already a Unitil Heating Customer are eligible for an additional \$600 per unit up to 4 units for an additional 6 hours of air sealing or insulation work per unit. The funds currently available for these project adders are sufficient to provide incentives for approximately 500 residential Unitil heated units. If there are buildings where it is unreasonable to utilize this number of hours of air sealing and insulation work, Technical Field Representatives are able to on a case by case basis provide allowances for incentive dollars to support insulation and air sealing materials, but only where it would be unreasonable to commit this amount of labor in lieu of other energy saving opportunities.

Residential Direct Install Program Guidelines

Objective:

To support the use of Blower Door Driven Air-sealing by BPI trained energy advisors or contractors as recommended by energy

audits conducted on homes and to ensure data collection and test out on completed weatherization projects.

Funding:

Beyond funding from Unitil System Benefit Charges, \$4M+ from the Better Buildings Grant has been allocated for incentives to contractors for conducting baseline air sealing and insulation work at the time of energy audits to provide immediate savings to homeowners who hire a Participating Energy Advisor. A smaller incentive is also being made for test out reporting on completed weatherization projects where the projects are projected to exceed 20% projected energy savings or are funded through Efficiency Maine loan programs.

Program Description: **FOR AIRSEALING/INSULATION COMPLETED AFTER 9-12-2012**

Auditors will be eligible to receive up to \$600 per unit in 1 to 4 unit buildings for conducting a minimum of 6 hours of blower door driven air-sealing and insulation work per unit. (Up to 24 hrs of work and \$2400 incentive max per building) This work is anticipated to include but is not limited to a combination of the following types of repairs with the intention of addressing the most pressing energy loss issues in the home:

- Sealing of gaps and holes in and around basement sills, foundations, bulkheads, chimney and plumbing chases;
- Insulation and air-sealing of attic hatches, upper chimney chases and attic thermal boundary penetrations;
- Weather-stripping of doors and windows, caulking and foaming of exterior penetrations;

Combustion safety testing as specified by BPI standards must be conducted to verify that air sealing will not negatively impact proper drafting of combustion appliances.

If through blower-door testing, a home is deemed to already be approaching tightness limits without the aid of mechanical ventilation, and therefore not a good candidate for targeted air sealing work, other insulation and energy efficiency work may be conducted toward receipt of the \$600 incentive.

If the BPI auditor recommends less than the minimum number of work hours on a project, provides written explanation of site limitations and observations along with recommendations for

other insulation related costs that would provide greater benefit to the homeowner, technical team staff are able to modify the minimum hour requirements on a case by case basis to comply with BPI standards and common sense.

In order to receive the \$600 Air Sealing Incentive, **four** pieces of documentation must be submitted:

1. Efficiency Maine Audit Reporting Form; AND
2. Invoice with line item describing work conducted, equal to or exceeding \$600; AND
3. Customer signed release of utility information and incentive payment to the energy advisor.
4. Signed Certificate of Completion

At the time of completing a weatherization project, Participating Energy Advisors are eligible to receive an additional \$100 incentive on projects that exceeded 20% projected energy savings or were financed through Efficiency Maine loans by verifying combustion safety and the post-project CFM50 blower-door reading.

In order to receive the \$100 Post-project incentive, the following pieces of documentation must be submitted:

1. Efficiency Maine Project Reporting Form; AND
2. Copies of overall project invoices; AND
3. Customer signed release of utility information and incentive payment to the energy advisor if not already submitted for the initial audit incentive.

While Audit and Project Reporting tools will be available online for electronic submission, additional documentation for either incentive should be submitted to:

Efficiency Maine
66 Winthrop Street, Suite 2
Augusta, ME 04330-5506
Fax: (207) 622-9933
Email: Lynne.Mizner@csgrp.com

Efficiency Maine will run activity reports on a bi-weekly basis to make consolidated incentive payments to Participating Energy Advisors for activity submitted during the prior two week period. E.g. - 6 audit report submissions and 3 project completions during a 2 week period would result in an incentive payment of \$3,900 to the Participating Energy Advisor.

Energy Advisors are encouraged to incorporate this incentive program into their business plan in whatever way works best. Efficiency Maine anticipates that some energy advisors will offer low cost audit and air-sealing services, while others may incorporate this incentive into an overall scope of weatherization work.

Participation in Residential Direct Install enables homeowners owner-occupied single family detached dwellings to access PowerSaver financing of up to \$7,500 without meeting HESP program minimum 20% projected savings requirements. Eligible measures including energy star space and water heating system upgrade, insulation and air-sealing work. A list of eligible measures and criteria are available online. Please note that pellet/wood heating systems that are compliant with EPA Phase 2, Oregon DOE requirements or equivalent European standards are also eligible: portal.hud.gov/huddoc/psstandards.pdf

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RDI_audit_reporting_tool

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RDI_project_reporting_tool

All forms and survey links are available at:

<http://www.efficiencymaine.com/pace/energy-advisors>

<http://www.efficiencymaine.com/airsealing-downloads-forms>