

# Montgomery County Commercial and Multi-Family Rebate Program

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# Background:

- Montgomery County received \$7.6 million dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded Energy-Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (Department of Energy)
- Seven programs are being funded through the grant including retrofits to County buildings, education and outreach, the Commercial/Multi-Family rebate program, workforce development and a residential rebate program
- Approximately \$1.7 million of funds from this initiative have been set-aside as rebates to fund energy efficiency upgrades to businesses, congregations, non-profits, and multi-family communities

## **About the Commercial/Multi-Family Rebate Program:**

- Competitive rebate for energy-efficiency retrofits
- Application anticipated to launch this month
- Will provide the lesser of \$75,000 or 50% of gross project cost to successful applicants
- Minimum grant amount \$5,000
- Two funding rounds anticipated, with approximately half of the funds available for each round
- An audit is not required to apply or receive funding, but having an existing audit will make the grant more competitive
- Application and project reporting will be electronic
- All projects must be complete no later than August 2012, specific deadlines will be negotiated as part of rebate agreements

# Eligibility:

- Large businesses
- Small businesses
- Multi-family common ownership communities
- Multi-family tenant communities
- Non-profits
- Faith based organizations

# Eligible Activities:

Nearly all energy efficiency improvements are eligible, including:

- Lighting systems and controls
- Building shell
- Heating, cooling and ventilating
- Water heating and efficiency
- Equipment
- Energy management systems
- Geothermal systems under 5.5 tons

*Unfortunately, the statute that created the program will not allow us to fund solar photovoltaic, solar water heating or large geothermal systems.*

## Criteria:

- Energy savings potential (an audit is not required to apply but is helpful)
- Multi-family complexes, businesses under 100 employees, non-profits and faith based organizations will receive special consideration in rating.
- Number of different building features being retrofitted (e.g., lighting and HVAC)
- Time and ability to complete the project
- Organization's commitment to sustainability, financial need, and social mission
- Projects where an organization partners on a rebate application with a service and product provider or vendor will be extremely attractive.

## Special Considerations:

- Funding originates from stimulus and has extensive reporting requirements that are passed on from DOE. These can be onerous at first, but if an applicant selects a vendor with some capability/experience complying they can be overcome.
  - Historic Preservation Requirements
  - Davis Bacon Act
  - Waste Management
  - Monthly reporting
  - Energy savings

# How can I apply and when?:

- Program launch anticipated in March 2011 (this month), final details being “ironed out”.
- Web address (information to be posted but the domain is set-up), [www.mcenergyfunding.com](http://www.mcenergyfunding.com)
- Will send information to Bethesda Green and distribute widely through the community.
- Workshops will be scheduled to further explain the details of the program and compliance requirements.

Feel free to email me at

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And I will make sure you receive the announcement.

Questions?

