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## Solar Santa Monica Advice Line – Answers for local residents about Energy Upgrade California

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Santa Monica has a goal of becoming a net zero City by 2020. That means we will produce as much energy as we use. To get there we'll need everyone to make changes in how they use energy – and one change is to use less. Energy efficiency upgrades are one of the best ways to reduce the amount of energy you use, which reduces your bill, reduces the amount of electricity that power plants must produce, and thus reduces toxic emissions. It's a win-win-win.

And now California has a program to help you add more energy efficiency upgrades to those you may already have made.

### 1. **Can I participate?**

This phase of the program is for owners of detached single family homes.

### 2. **What, I can't participate? That's not fair!**

This is just the first phase of the program...! And you may be able to build your own "rebate program" by taking advantage of single item rebates – see question 4, below. Solar Santa Monica offers efficiency suggestions for all housing types. Whatever works, works well when it comes to efficiency!

### 3. **What if I just want to get the assessment, but am not ready to do anything else. Can I get a rebate?**

Assessments vary in costs depending on how contractors package their services. As of now, the program is aiming at getting people to make WHOLE HOUSE improvements, so the assessment alone doesn't qualify. However, having a participating contractor perform a whole house assessment is always a good idea - you will uncover many ways to increase the comfort and efficiency of your home. After the assessment you can decide how little or how much you would like to spend to improve your home.

4. **Thanks to earlier Santa Monica programs, I have already done some of the things on the list. Can I still get a rebate?**

Maybe. Your contractor will be able to tell you for sure.

5. **I think I need the Advanced Package. Which of the eligible items would have the most impact on my savings and therefore give me the biggest rebate?**

Homes in extreme climates are likely to get the biggest bang for their buck, and therefore the largest rebates from EUC. In Santa Monica, where the temperature is mild, your savings will depend on your individual home and your individual energy usage profile. Ask yourself: what problems do you have? Is the home too cold? Too hot? Drafty? Noisy? Try to solve comfort problems and you're likely to save the most energy. Having a participating contractor perform a whole-house assessment will provide you with the most detailed plan for action.

6. **What is Santa Monica doing to help me?**

Solar Santa Monica can assist in a number of ways:

- a. We can refer you to local, qualified contractors that perform whole-house assessments and retrofits.
- b. We can help compare bids from contractors.
- c. We can help you decide which measures to consider.
- d. We can help show how efficiency savings work with other upgrades, such as solar.

The main thing that we can offer is the chance to talk with a real person who knows the business and has your interests at heart!

7. **Regarding Test in/Test out with a major renovation:**

Test in should occur before the renovation and test out should occur after all of the work is completed.

8. **How does the EUC test in/out work if a homeowner is renovating and adding to the house at the same time? Would you test in before the renovation and test out after all the work is complete? Is it too late if a homeowner is in the middle of a renovation?**

A test in audit needs to be done before any work can be done on the home. Then after the project is done the test out audit needs to be completed. If any work were started that has an effect on the energy efficiency of the home that measure would not qualify. If you were putting in new kitchen cabinets and they were only surface mounted and it did not change the building envelope that would be ok but if you opened up the drywall that would change your blower door result.

9. **What if the home is known to have asbestos insulation on the ducts? Will the BPI trained contractor assess it for friability and asbestos content or does homeowner need to hire asbestos contractor to inspect and remediate?**

A BPI Building analyst should be looking for asbestos and if found would mean we could not do certain tests blower door and duct blaster tests. A licensed contractor is allowed to remove a

certain square footage of asbestos. However, most prefer to have a professional abatement company remove all asbestos.

**10. For residents who are SoCalGas customers but buy their electricity from Municipal Utilities (such as LADWP) are eligible for the following:**

- a. Up to \$4,000 from LA County
- b. Up to \$1,280 from SoCalGas
  - i. \$320 for basic package
  - ii. \$400-\$1280 for advanced package (basic package plus 10-40% energy savings)
- c. Up to \$750 from LADWP as a bonus for certain qualifying measures