

NYSERDA Relaunches ENERGY STAR[®] Homes Program with \$14.5 Million in Incentives for Building High Efficiency Homes

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has relaunched the New York ENERGY STAR[®] Homes program, making available \$14.5 million in incentives for building new homes that are significantly more energy-efficient than required under the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code.

New York ENERGY STAR Homes use less energy, lower costs to consumers, reduce emissions, improve comfort and increase home durability. The program is for newly constructed homes, including single family houses, 2- to 4-unit residences, townhomes or patio homes, and low-rise, multi-unit residential buildings for uses such as senior or family housing, assisted living residences, apartment-style student housing and others.

A New York ENERGY STAR home generally costs 1 to 3 percent more than a standard home, but is approximately 18 percent more energy efficient than an average home meeting state code standards.

“Energy efficiency is the most effective strategy for decreasing energy consumption,” said Francis J. Murray Jr., President and CEO of NYSERDA. “Many developers across the state are already building above code, so additional costs to meet New York ENERGY STAR Homes’ standards can be minimal.”

Participating in the New York ENERGY STAR Homes program offers a cost-effective way to reduce energy consumption while addressing health issues pertaining to indoor air pollutants, as well as appropriate ventilation and moisture control. After each home is built, a Home Energy Rater verifies that the builder has met the New York ENERGY STAR Homes program standards and energy efficiency requirements at that home in order to ensure those goals are achieved.

Incentives for builders are \$1,250 for homes upstate and \$1,500 for homes in the five counties of New York City, Westchester County and eligible territories of Long Island. Additional incentives are available for use of credentialed installers, or for model or display homes.

A \$500 affordable housing incentive is also available to homeowners whose household income is equal to or less than 80 percent of state or area median income (whichever is greater).

A total of 475 builders are currently NYSERDA partners in the New York ENERGY STAR Homes program. To become a partner, a builder must first become a participant in the EPA national ENERGY STAR home program and sign a Partnership Agreement with NYSERDA.

The New York ENERGY STAR Homes Program began in 2001, and participation has steadily increased. Today, there are 19,221 ENERGY STAR Homes across the state; 1,291 have been built so far in 2011.

The New York ENERGY STAR Homes program is funded by the Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS) charge paid by electric or gas distribution customers in the following utility service territories: Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., New York State Electric & Gas Corporation, National Fuel Gas, National Grid, Orange and Rockland Utilities Inc., and Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation. New York ENERGY STAR Homes incentives for qualifying homes with oil or propane heat are funded by System Benefits Charges in the same utility service territories.

For more information about the incentives, see www.NYSERDA.org and look for PON 2309 under Funding Opportunities. For a list of builders partners, see <http://www.getenergysmart.org/Resources/FindPartner.aspx?t=1>.

NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and funding to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect our environment and create clean-energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York since 1975.