



Date: August 27, 2019
To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.H.W.*
Subject: **Residential Disadvantaged Community Direct Install Program**

Energy Efficiency Direct Install

Energy efficiency direct install programs provide and install energy efficiency services and products in homes at no-cost to residents. Despite some interest in energy efficiency, many residents face barriers, such as upfront costs and difficulty of hiring a contractor, in making home energy efficiency improvements. Through direct install programs, residents can more easily access the benefits of energy efficiency, including saving money and lowering a monthly energy bill, improving indoor air quality, and making a home a more comfortable and consistent temperature and humidity.

These benefits can make the largest difference for residents in disadvantaged communities (DACs), who often face the most obstacles in pursuing energy efficiency projects. DACs are identified in the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, CalEnviroScreen, which uses indicators such as pollution exposure, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors. DACs are defined as the top 25 percent scoring areas from CalEnviroScreen. Approximately one half of Long Beach residents live in DACs.

Long Beach Direct Install Program

The State of California's Assembly Bill 32 Cap and Trade Program (Cap and Trade) became effective January 1, 2012. Funds received from the Cap and Trade program must be used for programs that reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Additionally, California's Assembly Bill 1550 requires at least 25 percent of these funds go to projects within, and benefitting, disadvantaged communities. The Long Beach Office of Sustainability is seeking to use these funds for the design and implementation of a direct install program that will provide onsite energy evaluations, home performance tests, result reports, and direct installation of energy saving products at no cost to Long Beach single-family residents in DACs. The Long Beach Direct Install Program (LBDIP) will:

- Help residents in DACs overcome barriers to energy efficiency, including time, resources, and expertise;
- Help the City achieve its citywide efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction goals;
- Educate residents in disadvantaged communities about energy efficiency; and,
- Guide residents through further enhancements that will get the best return on investment.

The proposed program will provide two main services to eligible residents:

1. **Assessment:** A trained efficiency specialist will audit the home and identify efficiency opportunities and recommend improvements. The assessment will be used as an opportunity to engage with the resident to discuss opportunities to save energy based on their home's unique characteristics and to answer any related questions. Following the initial assessment, residents will receive a customized energy report with specific recommendations on efficiency improvements, including information on cost and supporting links to resources.
2. **Installation:** Based on the findings of the assessment report, participating residents may choose to have the highest return on investment energy savings services and products installed, up to a predetermined per household funding cap. A team of contractors will provide home performance and HVAC services. The report will prioritize additional upgrades that residents can pursue that are outside the scope of the direct install services offered. The report will also include supporting links to financing resources.

The Office of Sustainability will provide program direction and oversight to a third-party service provider. Staff will market the LBDIP, set up the intake process to receive and manage resident enrollments, and answer resident questions. Staff will then direct the service provider to schedule and perform home energy evaluations, and will subsequently coordinate and manage subcontractors to perform direct installations.

Potential Products and Services:

- Energy Assessment Report
- LED Lamps
- Advanced power strips
- Central A/C tune up
- Attic insulation, plane sealing
- Duct sealing
- Weather stripping and caulking
- Hot water pipe insulation
- Window film
- Water heater repair or replace
- Refrigerator replacement
- Ceiling fan replacement
- Evaporative cooler vent covers
- Water heater insulation wrap
- Window solar screens
- Whole house ventilation fan

Staff is currently working through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to identify a contractor to act as a service provider for the LBDIP, which is expected to launch in 2020.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Larry Rich, Sustainability Coordinator, at (562) 570-5839 or at larry.rich@longbeach.gov.

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