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The Hartselle



Serving Hartselle's People, Building for Hartselle's Future

Cash Incentives Available for Energy Improvements

Weatherizing your home can save money on your electric bill. But knowing which improvements will save the most money can be difficult to figure out, says Hartselle Utilities Customer Service Manager Terri Harris. Under a new program beginning October 1, Hartselle residents can have a qualified professional make recommendations on which energy efficiency upgrades will have the biggest impact in their home. And, Hartselle Utilities customers who make energy efficiency improvements to their homes may qualify for cash reimbursements to help offset the costs.

Hartselle residents have had the option of taking the free home energy self-audit from TVA, which provides a lot of useful recommendations, says Harris, and that program is still available. But having a professional contractor in person, who can actually look at

a home and answer questions, she explains, is invaluable.

Hartselle Utilities is participating in the In-Home Energy Evaluation (IHEE) Program, a pilot program offered by TVA. This program is one of the most aggressive energy savings programs offered by TVA to residential customers since the 1970s, and is part of the utility's overall effort to reduce electricity usage in the Tennessee Valley by 1,400 megawatts – the output of one power plant – by 2012.

To participate in the program, a homeowner starts with an in-home energy evaluation completed by a TVA-certified evaluator. This qualified professional will inspect your home, looking for im-

 Need help lowering your energy bill right now? Check out our website for the Top 10 No Cost Steps You Can Do This Winter: www.HartselleUtilities.org.

provements that can be made to help save on energy costs. The evaluator will then provide a detailed list of recommended upgrades and home improvements,

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TVA will match up to 50 percent of the amount a homeowner spends on qualified energy efficiency improvements up to the amounts listed at left, and up to a maximum of \$500 per home. This \$500 is in addition to the reimbursement to the homeowner for the cost of the \$150 initial in-home energy evaluation, which is required for participation in the program.

The following items are not eligible for cash incentives: water heaters (including tankless); clothes washers or dryers; dishwashers; refrigerators; insulated garage doors; storm doors; window film/solar screens; radiant barriers; room air conditioners; and programmable thermostats for existing systems.

Energy Efficiency Measure	Requirements	Incentive
Replace windows	• Must meet Energy Star® requirements (officially branded with a sticker)	\$500
Storm windows	• Must meet <i>energy right</i> ® requirements	\$500
Duct repair/ replacement & sealing	• Existing HVAC only • Air distribution only	\$500
Rehabilitation work	• Minor repair work such as broken glass, glazing or prime door replacement • Pre-approval by Hartselle Utilities	\$250
Replace HVAC • All heat pumps included • Dual-fuel heat pumps • Air conditioning (with gas pack or gas split)	• Must meet Energy Star® requirements • HU pre-approval for dual fuel or air conditioning	\$250
Attic insulation/ ventilation (must be nonpowered)	• Must meet <i>energy right</i> weatherization requirements	\$500
Floor or perimeter insulation, and ground cover	• Must meet <i>energy right</i> weatherization requirements • Where allowed by Codes	\$500
Exterior wall insulation	• Knee walls only • R18 or greater	\$500
Water heater insulation	• Electric only	\$50
Air sealing (including weatherstrip and caulk)	• Must meet <i>energy right</i> weatherization requirements	\$500
Self-installed insulation, caulk, weatherstrip, rehabilitation (as defined above)	• Cost of materials only may be claimed • HU pre-approval	\$250
HVAC tune-up	• Must be performed by QCN contractor	\$150

TVA Fuel Cost Adjustment for October: -11%

The FCA affects only the electric portion of your HU bill. It is adjusted quarterly and can be a credit or debit to allow TVA to recover, when necessary, increases in purchased power and fuel-related costs. The FCA for July was -4%.

Although the FCA for October is decreasing, TVA's wholesale base rate – what Hartselle Utilities pays TVA for electricity – increases 8 percent effective October 1, so residents will not see a large decrease in their electric bills. According to Bob Sittason, Hartselle Utilities Accounting and Finance Manager, Hartselle's average residential rate will drop about \$16.84 from this time last year. The average residential electric bill in the fourth quarter 2008 was \$111.42; Sittason projects that the average bill for fourth quarter 2009 will be \$94.58.

Cash for Energy Efficient Improvements ... continued from front

the cash incentives that are available for each recommended item and a list of qualified contractors approved by TVA.

The initial cost for the evaluation is \$150, but if a homeowner spends at least \$150 on upgrades recommended in the IHEE report, the full \$150 is reimbursed by TVA, Harris says. In addition, TVA will match up 50 percent of the customer's cost, up to \$500 that a homeowner spends on weatherization and other energy efficiency improvements, Harris says.

To qualify for reimbursement, improvements must be made by a weatherization or heating and air contractor who is an approved member of the TVA Quality Contractor Network (QCN), except for self-installed insulation and rehabilitation.

Homeowners will have up to 90 days from the initial inspection to complete the improvements. Once work has been completed, a TVA certified inspector will be sent to inspect the work before issuing cash reimbursements.

Participation in the program starts with an In-Home Energy Evaluation. A call center has been set up to schedule evaluations and to answer questions. To schedule your evaluation, call 1-866-441-1430. For more information, call Customer Service at 773-3340.

Purchasing Agent Linda Huskey Retiring



Twenty-five years ago, a newly-single mother with two young girls wasn't looking for a career. "I just needed a good job," says Linda Huskey, who will retire at the end of the year.

"Hartselle Utilities hired me as a cashier," she says, "and I really didn't plan to be here that long; I didn't even think about benefits." She smiles. "I got lucky."

Huskey was hired as Hartselle Utilities' first drive-in cashier, and then made several lateral moves within the utility.

"At one point or another in her career, she has worked in every administrative department at Hartselle Utilities," says

HU Customer Service Manager Terri Harris.

"I was interested in every aspect of how the utility is run," says Huskey. And eleven years ago, her interest paid off: she was promoted to Purchasing Agent, the first woman to ever hold the position.

"My job is to provide people who work here with the products and materials they need and to make sure it is all available when they need it to keep them from having down time," Huskey explains. She laughs. "This is the perfect job for a woman, because the basic shopping rules apply: find a good deal, with great quality for a good price, and recognize that cheapest is not always best."

Since Huskey became Purchasing Agent, HU has undergone many changes, including upgrading many of the facilities, a new building, a new warehousing system, and a computerized inventory. Through it all, Huskey says, HU has been a very good place to work.

"We have a great crew, and we are evolving all the time," she says. "Our management and board have been very conscious of keeping us on the cutting edge. I'm proud of the utilities and how far we've come. I feel confident, as I move to the consumer side, of how well our utilities are run."



Employee Appreciation

Twice during the summer months, HU crews worked through the night restoring power after storms swept through Hartselle knocking down trees and power lines. Both times, while Electric Department crews worked on power lines, crews from other departments offered help and support wherever possible. In September, the Hartselle Utilities Board of Directors held an Employee Appreciation Luncheon to thank all the employees who pulled together as a team to restore electricity so quickly to Hartselle residents.

Tenth Annual Caring Day: November 6

On Friday, November 6, the City of Hartselle and Hartselle Beautification



Association will sponsor the tenth annual Caring Day. This drive collects canned goods for local food pantries as they prepare to help families and individuals in need during the holidays. Last year, Hartselle residents donated over 8,100 canned food items during Caring Day.

On the morning of November 6, please place a canned good (or goods) near your curb, about five feet away from your recycling container. All canned goods will be picked up and distributed between the Caring Place and the food pantries of local churches.

Canned goods may also be sent with your child to area schools, or you may drop off your canned goods at one of the following locations:

- Hartselle City Hall
- Hartselle Utilities
- Joe Wheeler EMC
- Hartselle Enquirer
- William Bradford Huie Public Library
- Chamber of Commerce
- Hometown Grocery
- Sparkman Civic Center
- Fire Stations (both)
- Police Department
- Public Works Department

Canned goods may also be dropped off at any of the following area banks on November 6:

- Bank Independent
- Citizens Bank
- First American Bank
- Peoples Bank of North Alabama
- Regions Bank
- Superior Bank
- Wachovia
- Family Security Credit Union
- Redstone Federal Credit Union

For more information, please call Susan Seibert at the City of Hartselle at 773-2535. Thank you for caring for those who are less fortunate during the holiday season – and mark your calendar for Friday, November 6.



Hartselle Utilities

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