



## Frederick County Power Saver Retrofits Program Overview

Frederick County's Power Saver Retrofits (PSR) Program is designed to help households save energy and money through targeted home improvements. Approximately 85 homes will receive subsidized, professional retrofits through the program. This program is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Be SMART Program. The PSR Program is being offered for a limited time only, on a first come first served basis. Details regarding eligibility and the application process are included in this overview.

If you are selected for participation in the PSR Program, the first step will be the completion of a home energy audit. Following your home energy audit, the PSR Contractor will provide you with an audit report, recommendations for projects to be completed, and a cost estimate. You will decide which projects you would like the PSR Contractor to complete and sign a contract agreeing to those projects. OSER will approve the proposed project list.

Eligible projects include:

1. Home energy audit
2. Combustion testing
3. Duct testing
4. Low-flow aerator and low-flow showerhead installation
5. Light bulb replacement
6. Programmable thermostat installation
7. Carbon monoxide detector installation
8. Hot water heater wrap installation
9. Hot water pipe insulation
10. Attic air sealing and insulation
11. Attic access weather-stripping and insulation
12. Basement/crawlspace air sealing and insulation
13. Basement/crawlspace access weather-stripping and insulation
14. Caulking/weather-stripping of windows and doors
15. Duct sealing and insulation

Upon completion of the work, you will pay the first \$400 directly to the PSR Contractor and OSER will pay up to the next \$1,600. Any work completed beyond this \$2,000 will be paid for by the homeowner and negotiated independently with the PSR Contractor. All work paid for with the \$1,600 OSER subsidy must be from the eligible projects list. Your \$400 contribution does include the cost of the initial home energy audit (unless completed prior to participation), performed by your PSR Contractor through either the Be SMART Home Energy Efficiency Rebate Program (Be SMART Program) or the Potomac Edison Home Performance with Energy Star Program (PE HPwES). The \$400 contribution can be used toward any energy efficiency upgrades.

Depending on the projects selected, you may be eligible for a rebate for the portion that you pay through either the Be SMART Program or PE HPwES. Visit [www.mdhousing.org/website/programs/BeSmart/rebate.aspx](http://www.mdhousing.org/website/programs/BeSmart/rebate.aspx) or [energysavemd-home.com/home-performance](http://energysavemd-home.com/home-performance) to learn more about these rebates.

Through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County Maryland's Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, 7<sup>th</sup> Street (Downtown Frederick) residents that qualify based on need through Habitat's A Brush with Kindness program may be eligible for a partial subsidy of the \$400 homeowner contribution.

## What is a Qualifying Home?

1. The household must be located in Frederick County, Maryland.
2. The home must be 2,600 square feet or less of conditioned space.
3. Homes with atmospherically vented or unvented combustion appliances or other hazardous combustion features are not eligible for participation. The only combustion appliance that does not require ventilation is a propane or gas stove/range. See “Combustion Appliances Guide” to determine if your appliances are vented or unvented. Combustion appliances must also pass combustion safety testing conducted during the energy audit.
4. The home must have no major structural, moisture, or hazardous materials issues.
5. The household must register for the Green Homes Challenge and pledge to work toward their Power Saver Challenge Certification. The Green Homes Challenge is a self-certification program that helps households take action to save energy and reduce their environmental impact. Register for the Challenge by visiting [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/GreenHomes](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/GreenHomes) or calling 301.600.7414.
6. Rental properties must have approval from the landlord and tenants.
7. Occupants must agree to allow OSER access to audit report results, blower door test results, combustion testing results, duct testing results, and utility and energy supplier information.
8. The home or property owner must provide the PSR Contractor with the audit payment at the time of the audit, and the home or property owner must pay the remaining portion of the required \$400 payment at the completion of the retrofit work.
9. Occupants must be home when the PSR Contractor comes to do the audit and retrofit work (approximately 2-5 visits), and the occupants or owner must schedule an OSER walk-through within one week of retrofit completion and allow the walk-through to be completed within two weeks of retrofit completion.
10. Contents of attics and/or crawlspaces must be removed to allow contractor access to those spaces.
11. Occupants and landlords must be current on all local taxes.

## What is the process for applying?

Interested residents can download application materials from [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/GreenHomes](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/GreenHomes). Paper copies are also available at the Frederick County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources located at 30 North Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701. Hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Applicants must fill out ALL applicable forms completely and turn them in either by mail, in person, or electronically. To submit via email, forms must be signed and scanned in. Electronic forms without signatures will be deemed incomplete. Applications will be accepted until all funds have been committed or the grant period ends, whichever comes first.

### **Via mail or in person:**

Nicole Robinson  
Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources  
30 North Market Street  
Frederick, MD 21701  
Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

### **Via email:**

[NRobinson@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:NRobinson@FrederickCountyMD.gov)

## **What can I expect after I submit an application?**

Once all completed and signed paperwork has been submitted, program staff will review applications to make sure they are complete and that the home meets the eligibility criteria. Each household that applies will receive notification of whether their application was approved or not.

A PSR Contractor will contact qualifying applicants to schedule an energy audit. Energy audits and retrofits are scheduled to begin in the fall of 2012. During the energy audit, the contractor will assess what work needs to be done and make sure no hazardous conditions exist (e.g. unvented gas appliances, combustion safety testing failure, unsafe electrical wiring, hazardous mold present, etc.). The home or property owner will pay the audit fee directly to the PSR Contractor at the end of the audit. Your audit will be performed through either the Be SMART Home Energy Efficiency Rebate Program (Be SMART Program) or Potomac Edison Home Performance with Energy Star (PE HPwES).

If you already had a comprehensive audit performed, you do not need to have another audit done by the PSR Contractor. The PSR Contractor will use the previous audit results and a home walk-through, if necessary, to create retrofit project plans. The only exceptions to this rule are 1) if major changes were made to the home since the audit was done that would alter blower door test results, 2) if the home had an audit performed by a company not participating in either PE HPwES or the Be SMART Program, but does require an audit through one of these programs to be eligible for the PE HPwES or Be SMART Program rebates, or 3) if the home had a PE HPwES audit performed, but requires a Be SMART Program audit in order to be eligible for the Be SMART Program rebates.

The PSR Contractor will provide you with your audit results and a project proposal within 3 weeks of the energy audit. Following your approval and OSER's approval of the project proposal, retrofit work can begin.

If you would like the PSR Contractor to implement additional projects over \$2,000 (\$1,600 grant funds + \$400 homeowner contribution) or outside of the eligible project list, these arrangements will be made separately from PSR. OSER does not need to approve these additional projects, and Frederick County Government is not held responsible for any additional projects completed beyond PSR.

The contractor will begin the work upon receiving your approval and OSER approval and will complete the work within 30 days of submitting their proposal. An Occupant or Landlord of your home must be available to be home when the contractors complete this work (approximately 2-5 visits).

Upon the completion of the retrofit work, OSER staff may perform a walk-through of the projects completed. You must allow the walk-through to be completed within two weeks of retrofit completion. At the time of the walk-through, OSER staff may request that you complete a survey, answer questions about your experience with PSR, or discuss your Power Saver Certification status.