



10 Steps For Achieving Energy Efficiency through Alexandria's Energy Saver Loan Program

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Gather Information: Begin to understand your home and know, for example, what type of fuel is used for your HVAC and water; what type of foundation and insulation you have; what type of lighting and appliances you use, etc. Have a good approximation of your annual utility costs so that you can spot any potential energy concerns, like drafty windows, poor weather sealing, or inadequate insulation. Consider whether you would be interested in financing programs offered through Alexandria that could help you remedy your energy efficiency concerns. <http://www.homeenergy.org/>



Begin Home Energy Survey: Once you've determined that you'd like to learn more about making your home more energy efficient, go to www.ilikeleap.com to start your Free Online Home Energy Report and enter the requested information. You're now on the path toward earning about conserving energy and saving money on your utility bills. <http://leap-va.org/home-energy>



Review Energy Report: Once the Survey is completed, LEAP (Local Energy Alliance Program) will send you your downloadable Energy Profile which will show you projected 3-years savings from energy efficiency improvements you could make in your home. www.leap-va.org



Enroll in the LEAP Program: If you are interested in learning more about an energy efficiency retrofit in your home, you can enroll in the LEAP Program from www.ilikeleap.com where your Energy Report is stored. This does not obligate you to do anything further but will register you with the LEAP team as a consumer that is potentially interested in an energy efficiency upgrade. <http://leap-va.org/whatwedo>

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The LEAP Team Will Contact You: Once you've enrolled in the Program, a LEAP team member will contact you at the number you provided to discuss the LEAP Program, energy efficiency options for your home, financing options available through Alexandria's Energy Saver Loan Program, and answer any questions you may have. <http://alexandriava.gov/housing/default.aspx>

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A Contractor Will Contact You: Once you've made the decision to go to the next step, a LEAP-Certified Contractor will contact you directly to schedule a home energy assessment. This is the first step to see exactly where your house consumes the most energy and to decide what measures you can take to improve upon this. Should you decide to participate in the Program, you must contract with a LEAP-Certified Contractor who has been pre-qualified, has strong references and must continue to meet LEAP's strict requirements and expectations. <http://leap-va.org/novacontractors>

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Apply for Financing : Once you've hired a LEAP-Certified Contractor, you have the option to apply for one of three financing plans through Alexandria's Energy Saver Loan Program, offered in conjunction with Commonwealth One Federal Credit Union. Depending on your qualifications, you may qualify for either the Alexandria Energy Saver Loan with a 4.90% APR interest rate or the Home Performance Loan with an interest rate of 7.90% APR. Both of these loans allow you to borrow up to \$20,000 for up to 10 years. For lower-income City homeowners, the City administers the federally-funded Home Rehabilitation Loan Program that offers deferred loan payments with 0% interest.

http://www.cofcu.org/commonwealth_one_federal_credit_union_announces_energy_saver_loan_program/

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Begin Your Energy Upgrades: Once financing is secured, you can begin your energy efficiency upgrade project. While your Contractor works on the larger, more complicated jobs, perhaps you can add to the energy efficiency of your home with a few do-it-yourself, easy changes, like changing your incandescent light bulbs to CFLs or LEDs; installing low-flow aerators on your faucets and low-flow shower-heads; or, if you are handy, why not install a programmable thermostat or light dimmers?

<http://www.ehow.com/install-a-dimmer-switch/>

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Apply for \$100 Energy Efficiency Rebate: : Once your energy efficient upgrade project is completed, you should expect to see about a 20% improvement in your energy usage. At this time, you can apply for a \$100 Energy Efficiency Rebate through LEAP and the City of Alexandria.

<http://leap-va.org/rebatesnova>

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Conserve Energy and Save Money: Your energy efficiency upgrade project is now finished and you can now begin enjoying your "new" energy efficient home! LEAP will continue to monitor your energy usage to ensure that you are reaching the projected 20% improvement threshold. So now you can sit back and watch for significant savings every month in your utility bills and know that you are helping the environment every day by conserving energy! <http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/local/topics/residential.html>

Resources:

Alexandria's Green Building Resource Center <http://alexandriava.gov/GBRC>

Energy 101: Home Energy Assessment http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/energy_audits/index.cfm/mytopic=11160

Washington Gas Energy Efficiency Rebate Program (expires April 30, 2013):

[http://www.washingtongasliving.com/RebateProgram/FAQs.xml?](http://www.washingtongasliving.com/RebateProgram/FAQs.xml?utm_source=EEFY12EcoCityALX&utm_medium=online_website&utm_campaign=EEFY12EcoCityALX)

[utm_source=EEFY12EcoCityALX&utm_medium=online_website&utm_campaign=EEFY12EcoCityALX](http://www.washingtongasliving.com/RebateProgram/FAQs.xml?utm_source=EEFY12EcoCityALX&utm_medium=online_website&utm_campaign=EEFY12EcoCityALX)

Access to energy Usage Data <http://www.greenbuttondata.org/>

How to install a Programmable Thermostat

http://www.ehow.com/how_2167659_install-digital-programmable-thermostat.html

Home Performance with Energy Star through the EPA http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=AeFwcKl5xBc&vq=medium

Forbes.com Article http://www.forbes.com/2010/02/23/battery-chargers-electricity-technology-ecotech-energy_slide.html

Energy Savers http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/

Alexandria's Office of Housing <http://alexandriava.gov/housing/default.aspx>



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