

Rebates offered for energy efficiency

From staff reports

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Cost-effective home improvements could earn homeowners up to \$8,000.

Energy Upgrade California is offering rebates to Long Beach single-family and multifamily residents for improvements such as insulation, low-flow water-saving devices and heating and cooling systems.

The rebate amount building owners can receive is based on a percentage of increased efficiency of the building. Building owners have the choice, depending on the depth of the energy retrofit, of following a prescriptive path for a \$2,000 rebate or the performance path with the possibility of an \$8,000 rebate.

The performance path begins with a comprehensive energy assessment with an approved Energy Upgrade California contractor who can facilitate the rebate process for clients. These certified contractors strive to make existing homes green, comfortable and healthier through energy efficiency.

Wes Harding, president of Harding Construction & Sustainable Solutions, is a BPI-certified Home Performance with Energy Star Contractor who helps homeowners navigate the rebates choices and believes

the benefits of energy efficiency can far outweigh the obvious.

"We lower energy bills and there is return on investment," Harding said, "But a more comfortable home, enhanced indoor air quality and the reduced impact on the environment is priceless."

Because most homes in Los Angeles County were built before modern energy efficiency standards they leak heated air in

the winter and cool air in the summer, which causes the use of excessive electricity and natural gas.

Energy Upgrade California's goal is to retrofit

28,000 single-family homes and 2,000 multifamily homes, which is the equivalent of removing 36,287 metric tons of greenhouse gases and planting 1,000,000 trees.

A \$1,000 rebate towards a Build It Green GreenPoint Rated Existing Home Certification is also available to homeowners

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that participate in the Energy Upgrade program. Build It Green's certification offers homeowners the credibility the home was upgraded to a high standard with third party verification.

To learn more, go to www.energyupgradecalifornia.org or www.hardingconstruction.biz.



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