



City of Palm Springs Development Services Department Office of Sustainability

TO: Sustainability Commission
FROM: Tracy Sheldon, Program Coordinator
SUBJECT: Potential New Residential Rebate Program
MEETING DATE: January 18, 2022

During the discussion of the Climate Action Roadmap at the City Council meeting on November 18th, the City Council identified rebates or incentive programs for businesses and residents as an important way to help people reduce their energy use. Council also highlighted weatherization as another important program to promote.

City staff, Chair Clark, Vice Chair Freedman and Commissioner Barrett met on January 3, 2022 to discuss the potential parameters for a Residential Rebate Program.

Scope of the Program

Below is the list of projects which could be included in the proposed Residential Rebate Program. Per the discussion on January 3, 2022, it is recommended to not include water efficiency projects which are currently offered by Desert Water Agency (DWA).

- Weatherizing or adding insulation to their homes
- Replacing windows and doors for more energy efficient models
- Installing Energy Star-rated appliances
- Conversion from older higher voltage landscape lighting to LED/low voltage landscape lighting
- Installing WaterSense fixtures (Not included in DWA incentive programs)
- ~~Turf conversion in addition to DWA's turf buyback program (Removing from list since this type of project is included in DWA incentive programs)~~
- ~~Water efficient sprinkler systems and leak detection systems (Removing from list since this type of project is included in DWA incentive programs)~~

Rebate Amount

It is proposed to transfer of \$50,000 from the Sustainability Fund for a Residential Rebate Program to promote energy efficiency practices and offer scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 per applicant until the funds are expended.

Permit Status

City staff met with Building staff and reviewed the proposed projects which could be included in the Residential Rebate Program and identified which projects required a permit.

Additionally, the permit fees are not only based on what the scope of work is, but also the total valuation of the work.

Proposed Project	Is a Permit Required
Weatherizing or adding insulation	YES
Replacing windows and doors	YES
Installing Energy Star-rated appliances where the installation of appliances DOES NOT require any new plumbing, gas, electrical	NO
Installing Energy Star-rated appliances where the installation of appliances DOES require any new plumbing, gas, electrical	YES
Conversion from older higher voltage landscape lighting to LED	YES
Low voltage landscape lighting	NO
Installing WaterSense fixtures when replacing plumbing fixtures	NO
Installing WaterSense fixtures in showers and bathtubs	YES