

Dear Neighbor,

In these tough economic times, I understand the burden high home heating costs can place on a household trying to make ends meet.



That's why I've been working in the Assembly to expand energy assistance and weatherization programs to help New Yorkers stay warm this winter.

If you or someone you know is having a hard time keeping up with energy bills, there are many programs available that can help. Weatherization and energy efficiency measures are the simplest, fastest and most effective way to cut costs, lower energy consumption and reduce the release of harmful greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

You can learn more at www.HeatSmartNY.org or by calling 877-NYSMART. If I can be of any assistance in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Harry B. Bronson
Member of Assembly

840 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
585-244-5255
bronsonh@assembly.state.ny.us

Updated 3/11

UTILITIES

You or someone you know may need financial help to get through the heating season. New York State's utilities and energy service companies offer bill payment options to help customers manage their bills. There are also utility-sponsored financial assistance programs and energy efficiency programs to help consumers with their heating costs. For more information, contact your utility directly:

Rochester Gas & Electric

89 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14649

1-800-743-2110

<http://www.rge.com/>

Electricity Emergencies

1-800-743-1701

Natural Gas Emergencies

1-800-743-1702

New York State's Public Service Commission also has helpful utility tips at www.askPSC.com.

Net metering, retail credit for a portion of the electricity generated, is available to consumers who install renewable systems, such as photovoltaics (PV) or wind. For more information, please check with your local utility or the NYS Public Service Commission.

ENERGY SAVED IS MONEY SAVED



COMPLIMENTS OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER
HARRY B. BRONSON

SERVICES



List of local services:

Rochester Gas & Electric

89 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14649

1-800-743-2110

<http://www.rge.com/>

Electricity Emergencies

1-800-743-1701

Natural Gas Emergencies

1-800-743-1702

Department of Human Services

111 Westfall Rd., Rochester, NY 14620

Phone: 585-753-6298

<http://www.monroecounty.gov/hs-index.php>

Greater Rochester Red Cross

50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607

585-241-4400

<http://www.rochesterredcross.org/>

Monroe County Office for the Aging

435 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester, NY 14620

585-753-6280

<http://www.monroecounty.gov/aging-index.php>

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP/HEAP)

HEAP assists lower-income individuals and families with heating costs in the winter. HEAP currently provides grants for heating bills, depending on a household's income; family size; living arrangement; heating expenses; type of heat; and presence of children under 6, adults 60 or over and individuals with disabilities. Both renters and homeowners are eligible for assistance.

In 2009 alone, more than 1.5 million HEAP grants were issued according to the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Applications for HEAP can be downloaded from www.otda.state.ny.us. Applications and eligibility information can also be obtained by calling the HEAP hotline at 800-342-3009, county departments of social services or county offices for the aging.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

New York State has the largest low-income residential energy conservation program in the nation for homeowners and renters. WAP, under the NYS Homes and Community Renewal's Division of Housing and Community Renewal, reduces the amount of energy required to heat homes and provide hot water, thereby helping save energy costs and increase comfort by providing an energy audit and services to weatherize the home. Contact your local weatherization provider at www.dhcr.state.ny.us/programs/weatherizationassistance/ or 866-275-3427 or 518-474-5700.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs

With the recent passage of the Municipal Sustainable Energy Loan Program legislation and with funding from the federal Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and New York municipalities may establish PACE loan programs that provide funds to property owners for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems, and may include repayment through a charge on the homeowner's property tax bill. Contact your local government.

WATER & ELECTRICITY

- ❑ Lower water heater temperature to 120°F degrees.
- ❑ Have insulation added to water heater and hot water pipes.
- ❑ Use water-conserving showerheads and faucet aerators.
- ❑ Replace old light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- ❑ Invest in Energy Star-qualified appliances.
- ❑ Turn off lights and other appliances when not in use.
- ❑ If available, use the energy savings settings on your dishwasher and washing machine and consider air-drying your clothes.
- ❑ Take a shorter shower.
- ❑ Turn down the brightness on your TV and computer monitor.
 - ❑ Use power strips to power down electronics that are not in use.
 - ❑ Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Set refrigerator to 36-38°F; freezer, 0-5°F

HEAT

- ❑ Lower your thermostat before leaving the house and before going to sleep.
- ❑ Add insulation, caulking and weather stripping around doors, windows, attics and other possible heat leaks.
- ❑ Ensure floor and wall vents are not blocked by furniture, rugs or other objects.
- ❑ Open blinds and drapes during the day to allow in sunlight.
- ❑ Buy insulated drapes to keep cold air out at night.
- ❑ Check outdoor areas of your heating system for any obstructions.
- ❑ Remove air conditioners from windows, or cover to prevent drafts.
- ❑ Make sure flue damper is closed on fireplaces not in use.
- ❑ Clean your furnace's filter monthly.
- ❑ Consider installing energy efficient windows or storm windows.
- ❑ Ask your heating fuel provider about payment and price protection plans.
- ❑ Request early fuel delivery to avoid emergency or 'off cycle' surcharges.
- ❑ Shop around for fuel providers and carefully review contracts and receipts.

AUTO

- ❑ Save gas by driving sensibly and observing the speed limit.
- ❑ Limit idling and engine warm-up, even on cold mornings.
 - ❑ Accelerate and decelerate as slowly and steadily as possible.
 - ❑ Close windows when traveling at highway speeds.
- ❑ Ensure your car is running well with regular maintenance.
- ❑ Avoid rough roads whenever possible.
- ❑ Inflate all tires to maximum pressure.
- ❑ Remove excess weight from trunk and inside of car.
- ❑ Organize a car pool with friends or co-workers.
- ❑ Combine short errands into a single trip.
- ❑ Instead of driving, use public transportation if possible.

**For more information,
visit energystar.gov**

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

NYSERDA (www.nyserda.org) is a national leader in developing energy efficiency and conservation programs, helping consumers reduce heating costs through:

- Green Jobs – Green New York, www.nyserda.org/greenny/
- New York Energy \$mart Loan Fund, www.NYSERDA.org/loanfund
- Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, www.getenergysmart.org, click "Single Family Homes"

- Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, www.getenergysmart.org, click "Low Income"

For information on these programs and more, call 866-NYSERDA (697-3732) or visit www.getenergysmart.org or call 877-NYSmart.