



City of New Bedford
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City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

P R E S S R E L E A S E

New “Energy Smart” Program Offers Assistance to Homeowners and Small Businesses Looking to Reduce Utility Bills

Program to be a one-stop resource for energy solutions

New Bedford, Massachusetts—The City of New Bedford is partnering with Next Step Living, TNT Energy, and Good Energy to offer a new “Energy Smart” program to help homeowners and small businesses lower their utility bills and shrink their carbon footprint.

The new “Energy Smart Homes and Small Businesses” program is an innovative initiative designed to save New Bedford residents and small businesses money through improved energy efficiency measures, a switch to renewable energy options, and the procurement of a more cost-effective electricity supply.

The new program is part of the work of New Bedford Energy Now (NBEN), a City-led partnership of community groups, local businesses, and city offices committed to expanding the benefits of efficient buildings, clean energy, procurement of lower-cost electricity, community development, and job-creation.

Under the program, Good Energy will be supporting the Community Electricity Aggregation element, while Next Step Living and TNT Energy’s assistance efforts will be funded through Eversource’s Residential and Small Business Energy Efficiency programs.

Throughout the spring, NBEN and its partners will be hosting educational forums and workshops across New Bedford to inform homeowners and business owners about the no-cost services available. The next three forums will be held on May 5, 2015 at the Wilks Library; May 12, 2015 at the Main Library Downtown; and on May 14, 2015 at the Lawler Library. All forums begin at 6:30 pm. NBEN will be hosting additional forums in coming months. The full schedule can be found on the City’s “Community Services” website.

“My Administration has led by example and pursued aggressive renewable energy and efficiency initiatives that have put a major dent in the City’s utility bills, so I encourage residents to pursue the same kinds of opportunities for their own homes and businesses. All the City’s partners in the “Energy Smart” initiative deserve credit for the creative program they have developed,” said New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell.

“We’re excited for the next phase in our partnership with the City of New Bedford,” said Next Step Living’s Vice President of Outreach Programs Gabe Shapiro. “The Energy Smart Homes Campaign will help New Bedford residents continue to lower their collective carbon footprint and help create substantial energy savings.”

"TNT Energy would like to thank the City of New Bedford and NBEN for allowing us to serve the small business community’s energy efficiency needs. We welcome the opportunity to offer energy efficient equipment, incentives, and services to help the city’s small business owners thrive,” said TNT Energy’s Michael Duffy, Program Director.

"Good Energy is very excited to be working with NBEN and the City’s Energy Office to develop and manage the Community Electricity Aggregation program which will help the residents and businesses of New Bedford save money and achieve budget stability on their electricity bills” said Good Energy’s Philip Carr, the company’s New England Regional Director.

About New Bedford Energy Now (NBEN)

NBEN is ready to answer questions from home and business owners concerning weatherization, energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, alternative energy systems like solar power systems, solar hot water heaters, community solar, and/or whether a resident should consider an electricity supply deal. Since NBEN’s inception, the program has served over 2,000 families through its many services. As a result, New Bedford residents and small business are realizing aggregate annual savings of more than \$350,000.

Among its several efforts, NBEN helps connect residents to Eversource-sponsored Mass-Save incentives and rebates that will help maximize their savings. For example, if a home needs insulation, the homeowner may qualify for an incentive which will supply 75% of the cost to insulate, up to \$2,000--plus no-cost air sealing. Upgraded insulation could save a homeowner up to 20% on their annual heating and cooling bills.

To learn more about all these opportunities or get a copy of the educational forum schedule, residents and businesses may contact the NBEN office at 508-991-6193 or Ken Ramos, NBEN Community Energy Coordinator at 617-429-8844.

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