

STATE OF NEW YORK

# Public Service Commission

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## RESIDENTIAL NATURAL GAS EFFICIENCY EFFORT UNDERWAY

— Millions Available for Homeowners to Install Gas-Efficient Equipment —

Albany, NY—04/07/09—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today announced approval of a residential gas efficiency equipment program designed to promote the installation of efficient, cost-effective, furnaces, boilers, and other equipment, primarily by providing more than \$24 million in rebate programs for the purchase and installation of approved equipment.

The program is designed for residential one to four-family houses. There are nearly 4.3 million residential natural gas customers in New York State.

“The installation of gas-efficient equipment is a step that will provide energy savings over a 10, 15 or 20 year period,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “This long-term impact is the reason why it’s critically important to encourage homeowners to take action. The installation of efficient furnaces and boilers in thousands of homes in New York will lead to positive economic and environmental gains for all. This is great news for homeowners looking to save money and use less energy.”

The utilities participating in this ground-breaking initiative, part of the Commission’s Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS) proceeding, include Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., Corning Natural Gas Corporation, KeySpan Energy of Long Island, KeySpan Energy of New York, New York State

Electric and Gas Corporation, National Grid, Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc., Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, and St. Lawrence Gas Company. National Fuel Gas was not required to file a proposal since it already had a Commission-approved residential gas rebate program of sufficient size in place.

The new efficiency program offerings include a residential heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) program. The utilities were directed to have the programs up and running as soon as possible and no later than July 1st.

Based on the Commission's action, more than \$24 million is being made available for these energy efficiency programs through 2011. These unprecedented initiatives are expected to reduce annual energy consumption in the state by 533,430 dekatherms, which is the equivalent usage of approximately 5,300 houses for an entire year.

The new residential gas energy efficiency programs will offer rebates for heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment ranging from \$25 for programmable thermostats (installed at the time of furnace or boiler replacement) to \$1,000 for high-efficiency boilers. There is a wide range of eligible equipment and rebate levels.

For these residential programs, the utilities will provide set amounts: Con Edison, \$7 million; KeySpan New York, \$5.7 million; KeySpan Long Island, \$4.78 million; National Grid, \$1.9 million; NYSEG, \$1.86 million; RG&E, \$1.86 million; O&R, \$498,917; Central Hudson, \$207,593; Corning, \$165,679; and St. Lawrence, \$74,580. The utilities may also increase these amounts by up to 10 percent if they can install even more cost-effective measures.

Only customers who pay the System Benefits Charge (SBC) on their gas bills, which funds these energy efficiency programs, are eligible to participate in the programs and receive efficiency services or rebates or financial inducements for installing energy efficiency measures.

The purpose of the residential HVAC program is to promote the installation of efficient, cost-effective, furnaces, boilers and other equipment at the time of replacement, primarily by

providing rebates for the purchase and installation of approved equipment. To ensure uniformity statewide, all the participating utilities will offer identical energy efficiency measures, eligible equipment performance standards, and corresponding customer rebate amounts.

To ensure the outstanding program implementation planning issues identified above are being adequately covered, the companies are directed to quickly file detailed implementation plans covering the pertinent issues. The implementation plans will not impede the initiation of the new energy efficiency services being made available to customers.

The Commission's decision today, when issued, may be obtained from the Commission's [www.dps.state.ny.us](http://www.dps.state.ny.us) Web site by accessing the Commission's File Room section of the homepage and referencing Cases 08-G-1004, 08-G-1008, 08-G-1010, 08-G-1012, 08-G-1013, 08-G-1015, 08-G-1016, 08-G-1017, 08-G-1020, and 08-G-1021. Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission orders may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500).