

The Energy Resource Center provides energy conservation and renewable energy education, training and technical assistance to residents, local governments, businesses, hospitals, building trades, non-profit agencies and schools throughout the SEDA-COG 11-county service area. It assists the building trades and manufacturers to participate in the new renewable and efficient energy market. It fosters the generation, on-site use and local ownership of renewable energy within our region.

Act 129: For the consumer AND the technical service provider

Allegheny Power, Penelec and PPL continue to offer a variety of rebate and incentive programs to their electric customers to encourage the reduction of energy use, as required by PA's [Act 129](#). While there are similarities in the programs that these three utilities are offering, there are differences in program specifics, rebates and processes.

Find out what programs your household, business, school, government or non-profit organization is eligible for by visiting the ERC's [Act 129 webpage](#). From this webpage, you can navigate to your utility's Act 129 website, program descriptions and application forms.

Technical service providers, including energy auditors, building material suppliers and contractors, should be familiar with the programs offered by all utilities within their service territory to market financial incentives to prospective customers. Your customers can save money on lighting, HVAC equipment, energy efficient appliances and other investments by participating in these rebate programs – help your customers save money and help your business attract clients. Learn about the incentive programs offered by Allegheny Power, Penelec and PPL by starting from the ERC's [Act 129 webpage](#).

Business Opportunities for Firms with BPI-Certified Technicians

PPL Electric Utilities' (PPL EU) E-power Home Energy Audit Program provides an immediate and significant market opportunity for BPI-certified assessors throughout PPL EU's 29-county region. As part of its Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan required under PA Act 129, PPL EU is offering rebates of up to \$250 to qualifying residential customers who procure a comprehensive energy audit from a PPL EU-participating home energy audit provider. BPI-certification is a basic requirement to become a PPL EU-participating home energy audit provider. Currently, there are 21 PPL EU-participating home energy audit providers included in PPL's [Approved Contractor Directory](#).

To encourage residential customers to take action to reduce their energy use, PPL EU is also offering rebates to qualifying residential customers that undertake some or all of the energy weatherization measures identified in the comprehensive energy assessment. While BPI-certification is not required of contractors that are hired by residential customers to perform these energy weatherization measures, there may be a distinct market advantage to those contractors that also provided the home energy audits.

If you are BPI-certified and interested in becoming a PPLEU-participating home energy audit provider, contact Margaret Aukamp, Comfort Home, Inc. at (877) 486-9204. eic/Comfort Home, Inc. manages PPL EU's E Home Energy Audit Program.

New Berlin Energy Independence Project Drives Demand for

Energy Reduction Services

Act 129, in general, and the New Berlin Energy Independence (NBEI) Project, specifically, not only provide business opportunities for BPI-certified energy assessors, but also provide expanded business opportunities for contractors to assist their customers to reduce their energy consumption.

The [community-wide energy audit](#), completed in year I of the NBEI Project, revealed that the small community of New Berlin in Union County spends almost \$3 million annually on energy (electricity, heating and transportation fuel.) The 838 residents in the community spend \$2 million of the almost \$3 million. This equates to approximately 15% of the average New Berlin household's *net* income being spent just on energy in 2009. The audit and energy assessments inform the members of the New Berlin community of the technology, materials and/or behavioral changes that could enable the community to significantly reduce its energy consumption and costs.

To facilitate the connection of clients with qualified contractors, the ERC is developing and will soon provide a directory of contractors who provide energy-related services within SEDA-COG's 11-county region. While the creation of this contractor directory was catalyzed by the need of the New Berlin community to achieve its energy reduction goals in the near future, the ERC will be posting this directory on its website to make it accessible to everyone in our region interested in procuring professional assistance to reduce energy use. Within the next few weeks the ERC will be requesting contractors in our region to complete and return a form that describes their services and qualifications.

To learn more about the groundbreaking New Berlin Energy Independence Project, visit <http://erc.sedacog.org/newberlin>. The recently launched project website provides information about the purpose and progress of the project as it is being implemented. The website features [video footage](#) from the project's kickoff event, [photographs](#) recording project activities and more. The site will soon highlight case studies of households and businesses within New Berlin as they implement energy-related projects that support and complement the community-wide action plan. For more information about the project, visit the [project website](#) or contact project manager Megan Epler, at (570) 524-4491 or mepler@sedacog.org.

BPI Energy Assessor Being Procured for New Berlin, PA

Next month the New Berlin Energy Independence Committee will be soliciting proposals from qualified firms to perform energy assessments for approximately ten (10) municipal-owned, non-profit and elementary school facilities in New Berlin, PA. The assessments must be performed by BPI-certified technicians. Preference will be given to firms located within SEDA-COG's 11-county region.

The RFP will be distributed in August to firms that are included in the ERC's [Energy Assessment Providers Directory](#). If your firm provides energy assessments in the SEDA-COG service area and is not currently included in the Directory, we encourage you to complete and submit this [form](#).

Funding for the assessments is provided by the federal Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) as part of the New Berlin Community-Wide Energy Independence Initiative, a pilot project being managed by SEDA-COG's Energy Resource Center to reduce the transportation, heating and electricity use of New Berlin's residents, companies, schools, non-profits and government facilities. For more information about the purpose and progress of the New Berlin Energy Independence Initiative, visit the [project website](#). For more information about the energy assessments to be procured in the near future, contact Megan Epler at mepler@sedacog.org or (570) 524-4491.

Home Star Energy Retrofit Act

In May the US House of Representatives passed the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act ([H.R. 5019](#)), which is designed to create jobs, save energy and reduce energy bills for American families. The bill, co-sponsored by Representative Chris Carney (PA-10), received broad, bi-partisan support. It includes two financial incentive tracks to provide both long- and short-term energy efficiency benefits to homeowners:

- **Silver Star Program-** Provides up to \$3,000 in rebates to homeowners who install energy-efficient technologies including insulation, duct sealing, windows and doors, air sealing and water heaters.
- **Gold Star Program-** For homeowners who procure a comprehensive energy audit and implement many measures to reduce energy usage within the household. This track provides \$3,000 or half of the cost of a comprehensive audit. If a household reduces its energy use by 20%, it can receive a rebate of up to \$8,000.

This bill is projected to help three million families reduce energy costs and create 168,000 jobs. Over the next ten years it is estimated that this act will save consumers \$9.2 billion. A summary of the house bill can be found [here](#).

A companion bill [S. 3434](#) has been introduced in the Senate, and referred to its Finance Subcommittee. The next step for the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act is passage in the Senate. However, no hearings have been scheduled. SEDA-COG encourages you to call Senator Arlen Specter (202-224-4254) and Senator Bob Casey (202-224-6324) to urge their co-sponsorship of S. 3434 and to request that the Finance Subcommittee act to move this bill to a full Senate vote. Enactment of this legislation will bring needed funding to Pennsylvania's residents and job opportunities to local contractors.

"Green" Home Coming to Lewisburg

Lewisburg will soon welcome an innovative new energy efficient duplex home, as the Union County Housing Authority has contracted Vision Home Builders LLC of Bloomsburg to build a modular duplex home. Beginning with a collaborative design charrette in early 2009, community input was sought and considered in the development of the unique design of this demonstration project. With a project team led by Jere Engle, executive director of UCHA, a diverse group of architects and building, energy, and technical professionals contributed ideas to the design of a model energy-efficient, in-fill duplex home.

With many energy saving technologies incorporated into the structure, it has been rated at 45 on the HERS index. This means it will be 55% more efficient than the HERS Reference Home. (See www.resnet.us for more detailed info about HERS ratings.) These "green" homes are designed to achieve a score of Silver in the NAHB (National Association of Home Builders) scoring system. Silver is the highest rating these homes can achieve according to NAHB standards due to the limited size of the in-fill lot on Market Street. The homes will feature highly efficient heating and cooling systems and Energy Star appliances. The design includes plans for the future addition of PV system to offset electric energy costs. Detailed on-going energy usage data will be monitored, collected, and analyzed to demonstrate and share the effectiveness and affordability of the model.

Watch for more information about this energy-efficient affordable duplex home in the coming months. Check the [website](#) as information is added and updated. For more information, contact Barbara Woodson at Woodson@dejazzd.com or (570) 522-0299.

Help us to Help You

Like many of our loyal readers and seminar attendees, the ERC staff greatly misses our Energizing our

Region and Building Green breakfast seminars, and are currently pursuing funding to continue the series and to provide further technical training.

If you have attended ERC events in the past, please plan to respond to the 2009-2010 End of Year Event Survey, which will soon be sent via email to past seminar attendees. Your response will directly inform our seminar and technical training content and speakers. As importantly, the aggregate survey results help us to evidence our program's value within the region to funding sources so that we can continue providing our programs and services to you.

LEED Green Associate and LEED AP Seminar

The Green Building Association of Central PA is hosting a seminar on July 28th from 5:00pm to 6:30pm in Carlisle to help attendees understand the credential maintenance requirements for the LEED Green Associate or LEED AP. Dave Sheridan will explain the requirements of both programs, offer advice on record-keeping and explain how GBACPA events can fit into your continuing education program.

The presentation will be held at the Cumberland County Historical Society at 21 North Pitt Street in Carlisle, PA. Registration is \$15 for GBACPA members and \$20 for nonmembers, and includes light refreshments beginning at 5:00pm. Click [here](#) to register. Employees of GBACPA member organizations may attend at no cost (contact Dave Sheridan to attend at info@gbacpa.org).

Renewable Energy Festival

Don't miss the MidAtlantic Renewable Energy Association's 6th annual Pennsylvania Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Festival in Kempton, PA, September 17th-19th, 2010. This annual event showcases residential and community-based opportunities to reduce energy costs through renewable energy and energy conservation projects. Each year this festival increases in informational value, fun and national prestige.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Save the Date – How to Market Green Building Products

On Tuesday, October 5th from 8:00am to noon at Penn College's Professional Development Center in Williamsport, the Green Building Alliance is offering a seminar on how to market green building products. This seminar is designed to help companies promote their green products to green designers and builders.

For more information or to register, click [here](#) or contact Lauri Moon at laurim@imcpa.com or (570) 329-3200 ext. 8085. The registration fee is currently \$50 for Green Building Alliance members and \$85 for nonmembers, and will include a continental breakfast.