



PUSH GREEN

JOBS • COMMUNITIES • HOMES

WESTERN NEW YORK

456 Massachusetts Ave. - Buffalo, NY 14213

www.pushgreenwny.org

about PUSH Green

our history

In early 2009, People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH Buffalo) collaborated with a coalition of stakeholders across the State to develop a vision for an equitable green economy anchored by new public and private investments in the energy efficiency retrofit industry. The vision that was developed became law in late 2009 when Governor David Paterson signed the Green Jobs - Green New York Act. Green Jobs-Green New York (GJGNY) is the first statewide home performance program of its kind in the country to combine a community-based approach to customer demand generation, community and workforce benefit standards, and an On-Bill Recovery financing mechanism designed to increase access to the benefits of energy efficiency improvements for working families and economically distressed communities. On January 16, 2012 PUSH Buffalo launched the PUSH Green initiative as part of the GJGNY program.

GREEN JOBS - GREEN NEW YORK



Green Jobs – Green New York provides funding for energy assessments, low-cost financing for energy upgrades, and technical and financial support to develop a clean energy workforce. Green Jobs – Green New York is a statewide effort to strengthen our communities through energy efficiency. It enables New Yorkers to make a significant difference in our homes, businesses and neighborhoods—making them more comfortable, more sustainable, and more economically sound. Green Jobs –Green New York is administered by NYSERDA and made available by the Green Jobs – Green New York Act of 2009.



PEOPLE UNITED FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

People United for Sustainable Housing’s (PUSH Buffalo) mission is to mobilize residents to create strong neighborhoods with quality affordable housing, expand local hiring opportunities and advance economic justice in Buffalo. PUSH members work with partners and funders to create a healthy, just and strong city that includes community control of resources, living wage jobs and access to quality education, healthcare and transportation.

NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NYSERDA)



NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and funding to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect our environment and create clean-energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York since 1975.

how we work

our process

FIVE EASY STEPS IS ALL IT TAKES TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE COMFORTABLE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT.

1

APPLY NOW AND MEET YOUR ENERGY ADVOCATE

Visit the “How it Works” page to start the process now.

2

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Get your home upgraded with your friends and neighbors and start saving more money today.

3

ASSESS YOUR HOME

Your comprehensive home energy assessment will tell you exactly what work needs to be done, to make your home more energy efficient.

4

PAY FOR YOUR WORK

For the first time you can pay for your energy upgrades the way you pay for energy - right on your energy bill. With **On-Bill** you can use your energy savings to pay back the loan.

5

TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

Make your home more comfortable and efficient. Make your community more sustainable and create more local jobs.

See **PAGE 6** to learn about our **Friends and Neighbors Program**.

COMPREHENSIVE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT QUALIFICATIONS:

- You must own the residential building
- Check the table below to see if you qualify for a free or reduced-cost home energy assessment
- Have not previously received a Green Jobs – Green New York free or reduced-cost home energy assessment

Erie County Household Income Chart

Median Household Income	200%	250%	300%	350%	400%
\$66,100	\$132,000	\$165,250	\$198,300	\$231,350	\$264,400
Energy Assessment Cost	FREE	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200

NOTE: If your household income is above \$264,400 you will pay the MARKET RATE for your home energy assessment.

program costs



Paying for your energy upgrade is really simple. By using a BPI-accredited Home Performance Contractor, affordable Green Jobs – Green New York financing is available to help you pay for the cost of your new upgrade. You can now take advantage of cash-back incentives and low interest rates.

You may finance your energy efficiency improvements using the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Loan or the Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Loan. It's important to remember that only work performed by a BPI accredited contractor participating in the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program will qualify for program incentives.

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

For those who want to take advantage of low interest financing, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®, offers two options through the state's Green Jobs – Green New York program. Both loan options offer up to \$13,000 per household, up to \$25,000 if the project meets higher cost-effectiveness standards and repayment periods of 5, 10 or 15 years.

Option 1: On-Bill

On-bill Recovery Loans provide homeowners the convenience of paying for energy improvements on their utility bill.

loan features:

- Convenient – no separate bill to pay
- Repay from the money you save on energy
- Low 2.99 percent interest rate
- Transferrable if you sell your property
- Your annual loan payment is calculated to not exceed the anticipated amount of money you save on energy costs

Option 2: Unsecured Loans

Unsecured loans offer affordable interest rates, flexible terms and simple repayment options.

loan features:

- Current interest rate is 3.99 percent or 3.49 percent if you pay via automatic bank withdrawals
- Repaid monthly directly to NYSERDA's loan servicer

Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

This program offers all the benefits of Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®, plus grants of up to \$5,000 to cover as much as 50 percent of the cost of improvements. Residents with a total household income equal to or less than 60 to 80 percent of the State or County Median, may be eligible to receive additional incentives.

For full eligibility requirements and instructions on how to apply for either loan, visit www.pushgreenwny.org or call 716-886-1780.



frequently asked questions

Q: What makes PUSH Green different from other programs?

PUSH Green works with local residents, workers, contractors, and other partners to make our communities in Erie County more sustainable by reducing energy costs and improving home health, comfort, and safety for property owners. PUSH Green strives to deliver triple-bottom line benefits to local communities hit hard by long-term unemployment and high energy burdens that are good for the environment and the economy.

Q: Why should I upgrade my home?

Lower utility bills and a safer, more comfortable home are two of the big benefits to getting an energy upgrade. On average, 30 percent of the money we spend heating and cooling our homes is wasted. Each day, energy escapes through hidden holes in between your basement or attic walls. The only way to truly combat this issue is by getting a comprehensive home energy assessment. This way you can pinpoint exactly where your home is losing energy.

Q: Why do I need a comprehensive home energy assessment? ▶

According to the State, a comprehensive home energy assessment is the “gold standard” in home energy evaluations. It’s the only way to get a full and detailed report of all your energy upgrade needs. A comprehensive home energy assessment also provides important health and safety checks, like carbon monoxide back drafting and mold detection, and qualifies future energy upgrade work for cash rebates from the State.

Q: What can I expect during my comprehensive home energy assessment?

Depending on the size of your home, the assessment could take two to four hours to complete. During the assessment, the contractor will complete a visual inspection of the living space, attic, basement (or crawl space), and perform a number of tests using special diagnostic equipment. Your contractor will also perform essential health and safety tests to determine whether your furnace, boiler, hot water tank, and stove are operating safely, as well as check for mold and asbestos problems. After the assessment, your PUSH Green Energy Advocate will meet with you to go over the report in detail.



“ **CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ERIE COUNTY RESIDENTS IS ONE OF THE KEY ASPECTS OF THE PUSH GREEN PROGRAM.** ”

BUILDING A GREEN ECONOMY workforce development and contractors

In working with us, people know that they are not only investing in a warmer, more comfortable home, but in a better future for the region as a whole. PUSH Green works with local residents and contractors to lay the foundation for a **Community Jobs Pipeline** -- a strategy to engage low income communities of color and disconnected workers in the struggle to create an equitable community-controlled energy efficiency retrofit economy. The **Community Jobs Pipeline** combines conventional workforce development activities - recruitment, referral, job development, job placement - with opportunities for community building and leadership development.

PUSH Green provides contractors with unique but overlapping ways to put local residents to work:

- **NYSERDA** - All participating NYSERDA Home Performance contractors are accredited by the Building Performance Institute and are responsible for delivering services that meet the highest technical standards in the industry. PUSH Green supports contractors that participate in NYSERDA programs, by referring them to workforce development and on-the-job training resources made available by the State.
- **Friends and Neighbors** - PUSH Green partners with NYSERDA contractors and emerging minority-owned and women-owned businesses to exchange bundled job leads for upfront commitments to hire local workers at family sustaining wages.
- **LIUNA** - PUSH Green supports the long-term economic security of workers and contractors through a strategic partnership with the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) and its new residential weatherization and deconstruction Local 161.



We always felt like there was something wrong with our house.

PUSH GREEN HELPED US UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH OUR HOUSE. THEY ARE TRULY HERE HELP.

- MARYJANE & DENIS UMINSKI, *Friends and Neighbors* Captains

Friends and Neighbors Program

In addition to conducting grassroots outreach and marketing across Erie County, PUSH Green's Community Energy Advocates use a block-by-block, neighborhood approach to identify and connect homeowners in specific areas who are interested in building more sustainable communities together.

PUSH Green's Friends and Neighbors Program is designed to help Erie County homeowners make a larger impact on their communities (and their homes) by scaling up work in the energy efficiency sector. The Friends and Neighbors Program encourages and rewards collective action within specific neighborhoods, which are prime targets for energy efficiency work and the benefits it can bring.

The Friends and Neighbors Program works when five (or more) homeowners, who live within specific neighborhoods, agree to use the same contractor (or contractor team) to perform their comprehensive home energy assessments and energy efficiency upgrades.

To date, PUSH Green has negotiated discounted pricing with contractors to incentivize community participation in our program. The discounts are guaranteed when three customers in your bundle sign contracts to have energy efficiency measures installed in their homes. Homeowners who bundle with more than five of their friends or neighbors will receive even more discounts.

Friends and Neighbors savings are based on the following sliding scale:

- If you bundle with **five of your friends or neighbors**, you will receive **5 percent off** your energy efficiency upgrade;
- If you bundle with **six of your friends or neighbors**, you will receive **6 percent off** your energy efficiency upgrade;
- If you bundle with **10 of your friends or neighbors**, you will receive **10 percent off** your energy efficiency upgrade.



WHO WE ARE

PUSH Green is a community-based, energy efficiency program, working to improve Erie County communities through energy efficiency. We are part of a statewide effort to: make your home more comfortable, reduce your energy usage and bills and create local jobs.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact PUSH Green today to apply for your free or reduced-cost home energy assessment. One of our highly trained Community Energy Advocates will help you fill out the application and submit it to NYSERDA for you.

PUSH GREEN
456 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
BUFFALO, NY 14213
main 716.886.1780 | fax 716.884.0358 | web www.PUSHGreenWNY.org