



Energy Efficiency programs – Columbia Gas of Ohio

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel has diligently worked to encourage Ohio's utility companies to offer energy efficiency programs to Ohio consumers. Increased utility costs have caused hardships for many Ohio residential consumers. By improving home efficiency and reducing usage a positive impact may be made on utility bills while allowing consumers to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures.

Through its Your Energy Solutions program, Columbia Gas of Ohio offers several options for their customers. Complete information about these programs is available through its Web site at www.ColumbiaGasOhio.com or by phone at 1-866-542-4767.

Bill Payment Assistance

Columbia Gas is providing limited bill payment assistance to customers whose income is between 175 percent and 200 percent of the poverty guidelines. Funding for the program resulted from an agreement between OCC, PUCO, and Columbia for distributing penalties that resulted from a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) order in November 2008. Customers can apply for the assistance through their community action agency.

WarmChoice Weatherization

Income eligible customers can apply for weatherization assistance to improve their home's energy efficiency. The program assists with improving the home's energy efficiency by installing insulation, sealing air leaks, and repairing or replacing old furnaces. The program is open to households whose incomes are 150 percent or less of the federal poverty level, which is up to \$16,245 for a one-person household and up to \$44,295 for a family of six. The typical bill savings is about \$400 annually.

Simple Energy Solutions

Energy Star-qualified programmable thermostats

Columbia customers can save \$25 on up to two Energy Star qualified programmable thermostats. After programmed to the customer's satisfaction, a programmable thermostat saves money by automatically lowering the temperature in the winter or increasing it in the summer. Savings are as much as \$180 annually.

High-performance showerheads

Customers may save \$10 on up to three select high-performance, energy-efficient showerheads to help reduce your energy and water bills.

Go to www.ColumbiaGasOhio.com/e-store or call 1-866-542-4767 to shop for an eligible Energy Star qualified programmable thermostat and/or high-performance, energy-efficient showerhead.

Customers can also purchase eligible products at a local retailer and get a mail-in rebate. The eligible products list and rebate forms are available at ColumbiaGasOhio.com/e-store.

Home Performance Solutions

Available beginning in August, the Home Performance Solutions is an energy efficiency program available to non-PIPP customers. Depending on income levels, customers will pay a \$20 or \$50 fee for a home energy audit. A contractor will evaluate the home and make cost-effective recommendations for insulation, air sealing or furnace replacement. Customers who take advantage of the recommendations will receive significant discounts for making the suggested home improvements. The audit fee also will be waived if improvements are completed.

For additional information from the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel:

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