



A free resource for residents  
and small businesses!



1 *Reduce your energy bills*

2 *Use renewable energy to heat  
and power your home*

3 *Increase your comfort*

Smart Energy Choices is a new program to help residents with free or low cost energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. Our trained Community Energy Advisers offer free education and advice to residents and small businesses.

**GIVE US A CALL TODAY!**

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Smart Energy Choices



## WEATHERIZE!

Most homes have lots of leaks that let cold air in during the winter. By sealing these leaks and adding insulation, you can significantly cut down on the energy used to heat and cool your home. This reduces your energy costs and makes your home more comfortable.

There are programs that cover the cost of energy improvements to your home, for homeowners and renters. These include the **Weatherization Assistance Program** and **EmPower NY**, free programs that together can provide over \$10,000 of energy improvements for income eligible households (for example, a family of four making under \$57,564 a year). Another program, Assisted Home Performance, covers 50% of the costs up to \$4,000.

*These programs cover such  
improvements as:*

- Insulation and air sealing
- Repair & replacement of inefficient heating equipment
- Installation of high-efficiency lighting
- Replacement of refrigerators and inefficient appliances



Start with a  
free energy  
assessment  
TODAY!

**Learn more about these programs  
at [www.smartenergychoices.org](http://www.smartenergychoices.org)**

## RENEWABLE HEAT

Heating with wood, wood pellets or heat pumps can save you money over oil, propane or electricity, and there are a number of incentives to help homes and businesses make the switch.

### *Wood and Pellet Incentives*

for high efficiency, low-emission wood heating systems for homeowners and businesses that don't have access to natural gas

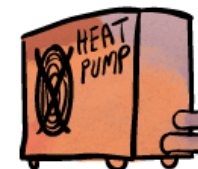
- **Wood Pellet Stoves**—\$1,500, or up to \$2,500 for income eligible homeowners, off the cost of the installation of qualifying pellet stoves.
- **Wood Pellet Boilers with Thermal Storage** – 45% off installed cost up to \$36,000 based on system size, with an additional \$5,000 for recycling old wood boiler or \$2,500 for recycling a wood furnace.
- **Advanced Wood Boilers with Thermal Storage** – 25% off installed cost up to \$7,000 per unit, with an additional \$5,000 for recycling of old wood boiler or \$2,500 for recycling a wood furnace.



### *Heat Pump Incentives*

for both air-source and ground-source (geothermal) systems

- **Air-Source Heat Pumps** – \$500 rebate to participating contractor, or \$1,000 per ton of system size for whole-home systems.
- **Ground-Source Heat Pumps** – \$1,500 rebate per ton of system size, plus a 30% federal tax credit.



# GO SOLAR

Solar power is here and available to everyone! Get clean, locally produced solar power to provide 100% of your home or business electricity, and save money while helping your community. There are three options for going solar, with options for homeowners and renters.

## *Residential Onsite Solar*

Purchase and install panels on your roof or property. State and federal incentives typically cover 65% of the cost, making it a great investment. Finance the rest, and your monthly loan payments will be similar or less than what you were paying the utility.



## *Community Solar Purchase*

Purchase panels on a community solar farm. These are built in an optimal location with no shading. Though sometimes not as good an investment as Onsite Solar, Community Solar Purchase works well for households who don't have a good location on their property, or for renters.

## *Community Subscription Solar*

Subscription Solar allows you to buy electricity directly from a solar farm in our region without owning the panels. This can be a great option for renters or for those who are unable to purchase a solar system for other reasons. Subscription models don't tend to have upfront costs, can be short-term contracts, and typically offer 5-10% discounts over utility rates.

Purchasing solar panels on your property or on a community solar farm, or subscribing to one, can be cheaper than buying electricity from the utility.

# COMMERCIAL

There are a number of resources for small businesses, non-profits and multi-family building owners to help reduce energy use and carbon emissions and save money.

## *Lighting Upgrade*

NYSEG offers a free lighting assessment and up to 70% of the cost of the lighting upgrade for eligible businesses. Hundreds of businesses and non-profits across the Southern Tier have taken advantage of this program, cutting down on their electricity bills.

## *Commercial Energy Efficiency*

NYSERDA has several programs to help businesses and non-profits get an energy study of their building to help identify issues and opportunities to reduce energy costs. NYSERDA will cover 50%-90% of the cost of the study for eligible organizations, and 100% for NYS farms.

## *Renewable Heating*

There are incentives for small businesses and non-profits for air-source and ground-source heat pumps, pellet boilers, and combined heat & power.

## *Solar*

Solar for commercial buildings makes sense. There are state rebates for small and large commercial installations, along with a 30% federal tax credit. With new regulations on remote net metering, you can install panels on- or off-site. There is also effective and affordable financing.

## *Multi-family Buildings*

Both NYSEG and NYSERDA have programs to support energy efficiency in multi-family buildings.

## *Financing*

NYSERDA provides subsidized loans for energy-related work to small businesses and non-profits, and some counties also offer PACE financing.

# CONTACT US

*We are here to help!*

Our trained Community Energy Advisors can help you save money and energy, and make your buildings more comfortable as well. We are not salespeople. We are employees of Cornell Cooperative Extension member associations, are equipped with information, and are here to support you every step of the way.

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Smart Energy Choices is a collaboration of Cornell Cooperative Extension offices of Chemung, Delaware, Schuyler, Tioga and Tompkins Counties, and is funded in part by a grant from NYSERDA, a state agency that promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy.



[www.smartenergychoices.org](http://www.smartenergychoices.org)

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