



# GREEN FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

The following is a compilation of financial incentives for environmental improvements that are available to residents of the District of Columbia. Many of these incentives target District homeowners and renters, but some are also available to commercial property or business owners and non-profit organizations. The incentives listed in this are organized into four categories: (1) energy, (2) water, (3) hazard mitigation, and (4) transportation. To recommend additional incentives for this document, please contact Dan Guilbeault at [dan.guilbeault@dc.gov](mailto:dan.guilbeault@dc.gov) or (202) 281-3957, or Mary Lynn Wilhere at [marylynn.wilhere@dc.gov](mailto:marylynn.wilhere@dc.gov) or (202) 535-1939. Please see individual contacts for questions on specific programs. Please note that website links are subject to change.

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**LEGEND**

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# ENERGY

## 1. Weatherization Assistance Program (DDOE)

Weatherization makes homes more energy efficient, and reduces heating and cooling costs. Low-income District residents may be eligible for assistance of between \$3,500 to \$6,500 in energy efficient home improvements such as heating and cooling systems repair, weather stripping, insulation, and the installation and repair of windows and doors.

### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** Residents must meet Federal Income Guidelines (\$60,245 for a four person household). Check website below for specific income limits. Renters may participate, but must have written permission of homeowner. In order to measure program effectiveness, participants must agree to provide energy bills for 24 months before and after appliance replacement.

**Availability:** There is currently no waiting list, but approximately 500 households are expected to apply for the approximately 300 available slots.

**Application Process:** Consult Federal Income Guidelines at the website below for eligibility. If eligible, call 311 to make an appointment for Energy Assistance. You may apply for Weatherization during your appointment for Energy Assistance. The DDOE Energy Office will contact you to schedule an energy audit of your home. Once the audit is completed, a contractor will be hired to install some of the recommended measures.

**Website:** [www.ddoe.dc.gov](http://www.ddoe.dc.gov). Click “EnergySmart DC” and choose “Energy Assistance, Weatherization.”

**Contact:** All initial public calls should be directed to 311.

## 2. EnergySmart DC Solar Initiative (DDOE) Coming Soon!!!

The EnergySmart Solar Initiative is slated to provide rebates to eligible applicants, for the installation of solar photovoltaic or thermal systems.

### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** TBA

**Availability:** Program announcement and launch expected in fiscal year 2015.

**Application Process:** TBA. Solar roof top site assessment tool and consumer information are available on DDOE’s web site.

**Website:** [www.ddoe.dc.gov](http://www.ddoe.dc.gov). Click “Solar Initiatives” under Energy Smart DC tab.

**Contact:** Daniel White (202-299-2163 or [daniel.white2@dc.gov](mailto:daniel.white2@dc.gov))

## 3. DC Sustainable Energy Utility

The DC Sustainable Energy Utility, under contract to DDOE, runs a large number of programs to help residents, multifamily buildings, businesses, and non-profits save energy. Please see the end of this document or visit their website at [www.dcseu.com](http://www.dcseu.com) for more information.

# WATER

## 1. RiverSmart Homes Program (DDOE)

The RiverSmart Homes Program offers incentives to homeowners interested in reducing stormwater runoff from their properties. Homeowners receive stormwater retrofits up to \$1,200 for adopting one or more of the following landscape enhancements: shade tree planting, rain barrels, pervious pavers, rain gardens, and BayScaping (landscaping with native plants). In addition to their aesthetic benefits, these improvements can reduce a property owner's stormwater fee and may lower water, heating, and cooling bills, as well as increase the property's value. Participants are expected to copayments, which vary per landscape enhancement.

### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** All District homeowners with yards are eligible (excluding commercial owners of large complexes). Renters must have landlord's written permission to participate in the program. A stormwater audit is required that will list the site-appropriate practices that DDOE will fund.

**Availability:** This program is ongoing, so there is no application deadline; however, there is currently a 3-5 month waiting list to receive the Stormwater Site Audit, which is required for participation in RiverSmart Homes Program.

**Application Process:** Complete an online application at the website below or contact Lauren Linville below to enroll. You will be contacted within 3-5 months to schedule a Stormwater Site Audit.

**Website:** <http://ddoe.dc.gov/riversmart>

**Contact:** Lauren Linville (202) 535-2252 or [lauren.linville@dc.gov](mailto:lauren.linville@dc.gov)

## 2. RiverSmart Communities Program (DDOE)

The RiverSmart Communities program offers financial and technical assistance to encourage the use of Low Impact Development such as rain gardens, BayScaping, pervious pavement, and rain gardens on multi-family residential properties, churches, and small locally owned businesses. Property owners may apply for a rebate of up to 60% of the project cost for Low Impact Development retrofits. Other stormwater management practices such as vegetated swales and dry wells will be considered on a case by case basis. (Note that BayScaping projects must be combined with a rain garden and/or cistern and BayScapes alone will not be eligible for grant funding.)

Properties in designated high-priority watersheds will be considered for fully funded design/build LID projects. Properties in the Oxon Run and Watts Branch watersheds are eligible for the design/build program.

### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** Applicant must be a District property owner; retrofit projects of any size are eligible; and portions of new construction projects that exceed the stormwater treatment requirement for permitting are eligible to receive funding.

**Availability:** Applications are received on a rolling basis and reviewed monthly.

**Application Process:** Visit the website below to begin the application process. Applicants must submit costs proposal from at least two independent contractors, LID plans, installation schedule, letters of support and a two year maintenance plan.

**Website:** <http://green.dc.gov/service/riversmart-communities>

**Contact:** David Wooden (202) 654-6131 or [david.wooden2@dc.gov](mailto:david.wooden2@dc.gov)

### 3. RiverSmart Rooftops Program (Anacostia Watershed Society for DDOE)

The RiverSmart Rooftops Program supports the construction of green roofs as a way to capture stormwater and reduce the volume of runoff entering District waters. This rebate is based on the square footage of green roof installed on the building. District property owners who install a green roof can receive a rebate in the amount of \$7 per square foot, or in targeted watersheds, up to \$15 per square foot. Additional funding may be available for structural analysis of small residential projects.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** Applicant must be a District property owner; retrofit projects of any size are eligible; and portions of new construction projects that exceed the stormwater management requirement for permitting are eligible to receive funding;

**Availability:** This program is ongoing, so there is no application deadline.

**Application Process:** Visit the website below to begin the application process. Applicants must submit structural analysis from a registered engineer, green roof plans, installation schedule, and a two year maintenance plan.

**Websites:** [ddoe.dc.gov/greenroofs](http://ddoe.dc.gov/greenroofs) and [www.anacostiaws.org/programs/stewardship/green-roofs](http://www.anacostiaws.org/programs/stewardship/green-roofs)

**Contact:** Anacostia Watershed Society (301) 699-6204, ext. 114 or [greenroofs@anacostiaws.org](mailto:greenroofs@anacostiaws.org)

### 4. Rain Barrel Rebate (DC Greenworks for DDOE)

Rain barrels capture rainwater from rooftops and store it, reducing the volume of stormwater entering District waters during storm events, and in this way easing stream bank erosion which is a major source of water pollution. Collected water can be used later to water the property owner's lawn and landscaped areas, fill ponds or birdbaths and water indoor plants. Rebates of up to \$1 per gallon of rain barrel capacity, with a minimum 50 gallon capacity, are available through DC Greenworks.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** District homeowners who plan to purchase and install a rain barrel over 50 gallons in size are eligible. For specifics on barrel requirements, see DC Greenworks website listed below. Limit two rain barrels per property.

**Availability:** This program is ongoing, so there is no application deadline.

**Application Process:** Download an application from the website below or call the number below to request an application. Assess your site to determine location, volume, and type of barrel using the form. Then purchase and install the appropriate barrel and submit the rebate application.

**Website:** <http://green.dc.gov/service/riversmart-rebates> and [www.dcgreenworks.org](http://www.dcgreenworks.org). Click "RiverSmart Homes Rain Barrel Program" on right side, and then click on "Rain Barrel Rebate Program" on the left.

**Contact:** [Craighton Ellingsworth](mailto:craighton@dcgreenworks.org) (202) 400-2787 or [craighton@dcgreenworks.org](mailto:craighton@dcgreenworks.org)

### 5. Shade Tree Rebate (Casey Trees for DDOE)

Shade trees improve the health of local streams and waterways by catching and holding rain water, reducing stormwater runoff and stream bank erosion. District homeowners who wish to plant a tree from the approved species list are eligible for rebates of \$50 to \$100, depending on the size of the tree.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** District homeowners planning to purchase and plant an approved species of tree on their residential property. For specifics on tree requirements, see Casey Trees website listed below. Limit three rebates per property.

**Availability:** This program is ongoing, so there is no application deadline.

**Application Process:** Download an application from the website below or call the number below to request an application and discuss the rebate process. Assess your site to determine the planting location and choose a tree species from the list of those eligible for rebate. Then purchase and install the appropriate barrel and submit the rebate application.

**Website:** <http://green.dc.gov/service/riversmart-rebates> and <http://caseytrees.org/programs/planting/rebate/>

**Contact:** Jim Woodworth (202) 349-1904 or [jwoodworth@caseytrees.org](mailto:jwoodworth@caseytrees.org)

## 6. Rain Garden and Installation of Pervious Pavers Rebate

(Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for DDOE)

Through the RiverSmart Rebate program, District property owners may receive a rebate of up to \$1000 for the installation of a rain garden, permeable pavers, or the removal of impervious surface from their property.

District residents who have already completed a project through the RiverSmart Homes program are still eligible to complete a new project through the RiverSmart Rebate program. Rebate awards are based on square footage of the project, with a minimum project size of 400 square feet.

### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** District homeowners planning to install a rain garden, remove asphalt or other impervious surface and/or install pervious pavers on their residential property may be eligible for this rebate. Specific project eligibility requirements can be found on the website listed below.

**Availability:** This program is ongoing, so there is no application deadline.

**Application Process:** Homeowners may complete the project as a do-it-yourself (DIY) job or may hire a participating contractor to perform the work. Homeowners will be responsible for completing a project planning phase online as well as submitting all necessary paperwork. Download an application and other information about the rebate at the website listed below.

**Website:** <http://green.dc.gov/service/riversmart-rebates> and <https://allianceforthebay.org/riversmartrebates>

**Contact:** Sarah Davidson (443) 949-0575 or [sdavidson@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:sdavidson@allianceforthebay.org)

## 7. Stormwater Retention Credit Trading (DDOE)

The Stormwater Retention Credit (SRC) Trading Program allows property owners to generate and sell SRCs by installing green infrastructure that has the capacity to retain stormwater and thereby reduce the runoff that harms District streams and rivers. An SRC is worth one gallon of retention for one year, and regulated development sites buy and use SRCs to meet their regulatory requirements for retaining stormwater runoff.

### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** Projects generate SRCs by installing green infrastructure with retention capacity in excess of the property's existing retention capacity or, for a regulated site, in excess of its regulatory requirements for retention but below an SRC ceiling. Projects must be designed and installed according to a Department-approved Stormwater Management Plan, pass a post-construction final inspection, and commit to maintenance for the period of time for which DDOE certifies SRCs.

**Availability:** Projects installed after May 1, 2009 are eligible to generate SRCs.

**Application Process:** Submit an Application for Certification of Stormwater Retention Credits online from the SRC website.

**Website and SRC Registry:** <http://ddoe.dc.gov/src>

**Contact:** Evan Branosky, (202) 535-2295 or [evan.branosky@dc.gov](mailto:evan.branosky@dc.gov)

## 8. RiverSmart Rewards

(Administered by DDOE)

RiverSmart Rewards is DDOE's Stormwater Fee discount program. The program helps DC Water customers save money on their Stormwater Fee when they install green infrastructure (GI) practices that retain stormwater runoff. The maximum discount is 55% and correlates with the volume of stormwater retained by GI. Applicants are also enrolled in the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (IAC) Incentive Program, which provides a maximum discount of 4% off the IAC.

### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** DC Water customers who pay the DDOE Stormwater Fee and are current with all charges may apply for RiverSmart Rewards. Green infrastructure (GI) must be fully installed, functioning to retain stormwater runoff, and maintained. GI under construction is not eligible for a discount.

**Availability:** RiverSmart Rewards is accepting applications.

**Application Process:** A property owner, or their agent, can apply for a RiverSmart Rewards discount using the applications and guidelines on DDOE's website. Contact Emily Rice for more details.

**Website:** <http://ddoe.dc.gov/riversmartrewards>

**Contact:** Emily Rice, (202) 535-2679 or [riversmart.rewards@dc.gov](mailto:riversmart.rewards@dc.gov)

## HAZARD MITIGATION

### 1. Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup Program (DDOE)

The Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup Program provides funding for Phase I environmental assessments required for brownfield redevelopment. Additional available services include Phase I and Phase II site assessment reviews, technical advice for assessment preparation, program eligibility determination, assessment and cleanup plan review and approval, monitoring and compliance tracking, cleaned properties tracking, and education.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** District property owners, operators or developers that did not cause or contribute to the contamination may apply. The site may not be listed on the US EPA National Priority List, be the subject of a current cleanup action, or have had prior involvement with the District or Federal environmental regulatory programs. No other brownfield grant funds may be used in conjunction with this program.

**Availability:** Approximately \$230,000 in program funding remains for fiscal year 2012.

**Application Process:** Download an application at the website below. Submit a completed application, along with a completed Phase I site assessment and application fee in person or by mail. If application is found to be sufficient and eligible, a 21 day public comment period will be provided, after which the applicant will be notified within 90 days. The applicant will then implement proposal, report back within 30 days, and file a Certificate of Completion with the Recorder of Deeds the Office of Tax Revenue.

**Website:** [www.ddoe.dc.gov](http://www.ddoe.dc.gov). Under Services, click "Toxic Substances," then "Voluntary Cleanup Program" under Land Development and Remediation Branch.

**Contact:** Jim Sweeney ([james.sweeney@dc.gov](mailto:james.sweeney@dc.gov) or 202-535-2289)

### 2. Lead Safe Washington (LSW) (DHCD)

Lead Safe Washington provides grants of up to \$17,500 per housing unit to eligible homeowners and investor-owners of pre-1978 housing with deteriorated lead-based paint to make those units lead safe. The program also assists with unit testing to determine whether there is deteriorated lead-based paint in the home, which if present can cause serious developmental defects in young children. To be eligible, the homeowner or tenant must be low-or-moderate income. Properties must be occupied by a child less than six years of age or, in the case of rental property, available to families with a pregnant mother or children under 6 years of age.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** Owners of pre-1978 housing units with signs of deteriorated paint. *For rental units*, half of units must have incomes  $\leq$  50% AMI, and all remaining units must be between 50% and 80% AMI. Properties with less than six units may have income requirement waived for one unit. Units must be appropriate for households with children under the age of six (i.e. no studios). *For owner-occupied units*, the owner's income must be  $\leq$  80% AMI, and must have a pregnant women or child under the age of six residing in or frequently visiting the unit.

**Availability:** 100 homes will be enrolled in fiscal year 2012. There is no waiting list for this program.

**Application Process:** Single family owners should make an appointment to submit an application with Housing Counseling Services (202-667-7006) or University Legal Services (202-396-1201). Multi-family property owners should call the Lead Safe Washington Hotline (202-442-7279) to apply. DHCD will assign a community based organization to conduct the income verification intake process on each tenant household in your property.

**Website:** [www.dhcd.dc.gov](http://www.dhcd.dc.gov). Under Services, click "Residential and Community Services," then "Lead Safe Washington" under Home Rehabilitation Programs.

**Contact:** Lead Safe Washington Hotline (202-442-7279)

### 3. Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program (DHCD)

The Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program provides up to \$75,000 of financing for home repairs to District residents who own a single family home. Repairs include the removal of threats to health and safety, such as lead-based paint hazards. Financing includes low or zero percent amortized loans, for up to 20 years and deferred loans not payable until the home is sold, transferred or refinanced.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** Applicants must own and live in their homes as their primary residence for at least three years, be current on all District and federal taxes, be unable to obtain private financing for the needed repairs, have an acceptable credit report, have current homeowners insurance, and have household incomes that are no greater than the levels found at the website below (approximately \$64,000 for a four person household).

**Availability:** 75 homes will be enrolled in fiscal year 2012. There is currently no waiting list for this program, but funds are awarded on a ‘first come-first serve’ basis so apply early.

**Application Process:** Call DHCD at 202-442-7200 to be put in touch with a community-based organization (CBO), who will assist you with the application process. Upon approval, you will select a contractor. All funding of contracts are between the household and DHCD; all rehabilitation, lead abatement, roof replacement and handicapped accessibility contracts are between the household and the contractor. Financing to address these hazards is provided as a five-year forgivable grant.

**Website:** <http://www.dhcd.dc.gov>. Under Services, click “Residential and Community Services,” then “Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program” under Home Rehabilitation Programs.

**Contact:** For enrollment, please make contact with a CBO (call DHCD at 202-442-7200 for a list). General questions may be directed to Jean Washington ([jean.washington@dc.gov](mailto:jean.washington@dc.gov) or 202-442-7154).

### 4. Free Home Radon Test (DDOE)

Radon is naturally found in the soil but can seep into buildings through cracks, walls, and openings around floor drains, pipes, and sump pumps. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of cancer in the U.S. Free home tests are available from DDOE by request via the methods below.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** All District residents are eligible.

**Availability:** There is no waiting list for this program.

**Application Process:** Call the Radon Hotline at 202-535-2302 or visit the website below to request a free testing kit. A kit will be delivered in 1-2 weeks.

**Website:** [www.ddoe.dc.gov](http://www.ddoe.dc.gov). Under Services, click “Air Quality,” then “Radon” near bottom of screen.

**Contact:** Radon Hotline (202-535-2302) or Keith Keemer ([keith.keemer@dc.gov](mailto:keith.keemer@dc.gov))

## 5. Free Home Lead Test (Lead Safe DC)

If you suspect you have lead in your home, Lead Safe DC will come to your home to perform a free preliminary lead dust test for the presence of lead. Please note this test is only used as a preliminary test for the presence of lead and further testing may be required.

### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** Must be a District resident living in a home built before 1978, and have a child under six years of age or a pregnant woman living in or frequently visiting your home. Preference is given to those who live in high-risk areas for lead poisoning.

**Availability:** There is no waiting list for this program.

**Application Process:** Call Lead Safe DC at the number below to apply.

**Website:** <http://leadsafedc.org>; <https://www.facebook.com/LeadSafeandHealthyHomesDC>

**Contact:** [healthyhomesdc@ncc.us](mailto:healthyhomesdc@ncc.us); Phone (202) 319-6157.

## TRANSPORTATION

### 1. Hybrid Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption (DC DMV)

Hybrid vehicles combine clean energy of the electrical motor with the power of the gas-powered engine resulting in lower emissions and better mileage. In the District, original purchasers of a qualifying hybrid or clean fuel vehicle are eligible for an excise tax exemption and a reduced registration fee for the first period of registration. Subsequent purchasers of the same vehicle will also be eligible for an excise tax exemption.

### PROGRAM DETAILS



**Eligibility Requirements:** Vehicles must achieve 40 miles per gallon during city driving—please refer to the website [FuelEconomy.gov](http://FuelEconomy.gov) for a list of eligible vehicles. The original purchaser must be denoted by the Manufacture Certificate of Origin to be eligible.

**Availability:** This benefit is in the form of reduced fees so is not subject to limits on availability.

**Application Process:** Purchasers will not be charged excise fees by the dealer at time of vehicle purchase. The registration fee will be reduced during vehicle registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

**Website:** <http://dmv.dc.gov/page/hybrid-vehicle-excise-tax-exemption>

**Contact:** DMV Customer Service ([dmv@dc.gov](mailto:dmv@dc.gov) or 202-737-4404)

# District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility (DC SEU)



The District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU) helps DC residents and businesses use less energy and save money. Since 2011, the DCSEU has delivered financial incentives, technical assistance, and information to tens of thousands of District residents and businesses, helping them to save millions of dollars on their energy costs.

## For Your Home

This year, the DC SEU will serve District residents through a number of initiatives designed to help them save energy and money, including:

- Offering rebates to residents who perform qualified energy efficiency upgrades working with District contractors. Find out more about the Home Performance Program.
- Partnering with District retailers to offer energy-efficient lighting products. Find out more about our lighting discounts and rebates.
- Offering \$50 rebates for ENERGY STAR® refrigerators and clothes washers purchased in stores and online.
- Distributing energy-efficient light bulbs (CFLs) through District food banks to serve low-income residents.
- Outreach and education efforts designed to keep residents informed about ways they can save energy in their homes. Discover useful energy-saving tips.

Website: <http://www.dcseu.com>. Check back often for updates on these initiatives, and for more information please contact the DC SEU at [info@dcseu.com](mailto:info@dcseu.com) or toll-free at 855-MY-DCSEU (855-693-2738).

## For Your Business

### Business Energy Rebates Program

The DC SEU Business Energy Rebates program is designed to help businesses and institutions in DC upgrade to new energy-efficient technologies and equipment that reduce electric and gas consumption. These rebates reduce the up-front cost of efficient lighting, refrigeration, heating and cooling, water heating, and commercial cooking equipment, which can all help lower energy costs for small and medium-sized businesses for years to come.

### Low-Income Multifamily (LIMF) Services

The DC SEU is committed to making energy efficiency accessible to all residents of the District of Columbia.

### Commercial and Institutional Services

The DC SEU's Commercial and Institutional Services help businesses and institutions in the District save money and energy. Through a range of initiatives, the DC SEU offers financial incentives, no cost fluorescent lighting upgrades, technical assistance, and valuable information designed to help business owners make informed decisions on energy-efficiency measures that can help their businesses save energy and money now and in the future.

### Energy Benchmarking in DC

By 2014, all District buildings (commercial and multi-family) over 50,000 square feet must use Portfolio Manager to benchmark their energy efficiency and report that score to the city. In order to make effective improvements that can save you money, it is critical to benchmark your building to establish a baseline--or a current standard of performance--for your building's energy use.

# FEDERAL PROGRAMS

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40913.pdf>

This report describes federal programs that provide grants, loans, loan guarantees, and other direct or indirect regulatory incentives for energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable energy. For each program, the report provides the administering agency, authorizing statute(s), annual funding, and the program expiration date. The appendixes provide summary information in a tabular format.

Appendix A lists programs administered by HUD and Treasury Department (i.e. energy-efficient mortgages) Appendix B lists an index of programs, by applicant eligibility.