

Press information from:
WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT
DEPARTMENT

For immediate release 03-09-11

For information contact:
(781) 245-7070

(Wakefield, MA) – The Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department’s (WMGLD) residential rebate and incentive program continues to be a hit among residential customers, with 409 customers participating in the program in Fiscal Year 2010.

According to WMGLD General Manager Pete Dion, the 409 customers received \$19,710 in appliance rebates and \$26,556 in energy conservation incentives during the 12-month period. This represents an increase of 20.6% in funds from the previous year.

“The WMGLD was among the first municipal utilities to participate in the program since the program was introduced in 2002,” the General Manager said. “Our program remains among the most successful and has been the model that others have followed over the years.”

The residential rebate and incentive program enables eligible customers to receive a rebate when they purchase a qualified Energy Star-rated appliance and an incentive rebate when customers make energy efficient improvements as the result of an energy audit. Rebates range from \$25 to \$100 and incentives of 25%, up to \$300, are awarded when specific audit-recommended improvements have been made. This program is open to residential customers only and only one rebate and incentive per customer account will be awarded each year.

The rebate portion of the program includes a \$25 rebate for the purchase of an Energy Star programmable thermostat or dehumidifier; \$50 for an Energy Star washing

machine, refrigerator, dishwasher, or room air conditioner; and a \$100 rebate for the purchase of a central air conditioner or energy efficient water heater with an energy factor of .61 or greater.

To be eligible for the rebate, customers must show proof of Energy Star rating, and include a copy of the Energy Star label, along with a copy of the sales receipt. All appropriate materials must be submitted before a rebate will be given to the customer. There will be no exceptions.

The WMGLD incentive program offers money back for energy efficient improvements made **only after** an energy audit is performed in cooperation with the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) Residential Conservation Services (RCS) program. Audits are performed at no cost to the customer.

Through the Home Energy Loss Prevention Service (HELPS) program, customers must call a toll-free hotline (888) 333-7525, or access the website at www.munihelps.org to obtain information about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and specific information about their own home's performance.

Customers answer questions to help determine which information, assistance and services will best address the particular needs of the individual customer. If energy improvements are needed, the customer is advised to have an energy audit at which time an appointment may be scheduled.

If the customer does not need an audit, they receive information about energy efficiency, the energy usage of appliances, and simple ways to save energy in and around the home.

Customers will only be eligible to receive an incentive rebate for specific energy improvements after an audit has been performed. There will be no exceptions. Customers who do any of the following improvements can save 25% of the total cost of energy improvements up to a cap of \$300:

- Attic insulation
- Basement insulation
- Rim joist insulation
- Wall insulation
- Pipe insulation, heating system
- Weatherstripping windows
- Weatherstripping doors

- Energy efficient windows/storm window replacement
- Energy efficient doors/storm door replacement

All work reimbursed by the incentive program must come from a recommendation made in the energy audit. Copies of the audit (pre-and post-installation) must be submitted along with a copy of the contract or proposal before any incentive rebate will be given. This incentive is available to the customer of record once every 12 months. Once the available money is spent, the program will end for the year.

“Customers must have an audit before they will be eligible for an incentive rebate,” Pete Dion added. “This is a separate from the appliance and programmable thermostat rebate program which does not require an audit.”

Informational materials are available by calling the WMGLD at 781-246-6363 and on the website at www.wmgld.com.