

Home Energy Makeover: Transforming Spaces in San Gabriel Valley



The Efficient San Gabriel Valley (eSGV) Program provides no-cost home energy efficiency reviews for renters and homeowners in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) to save energy and money. This initiative empowers residents in the SGV to understand their in-home energy usage by providing them with free energy efficiency assessments.

During the energy efficiency review, residents receive:

- An educational overview using the “whole house” approach to analyze the home’s performance.
- Information about incentive and rebate programs through local utility companies, federal programs, rate reduction assistance, and more.
- A customized home energy action plan with project recommendations, including both immediate and long term solutions.

Why is it important to prioritize residential energy efficiency?

Being energy efficient results in less energy consumption.

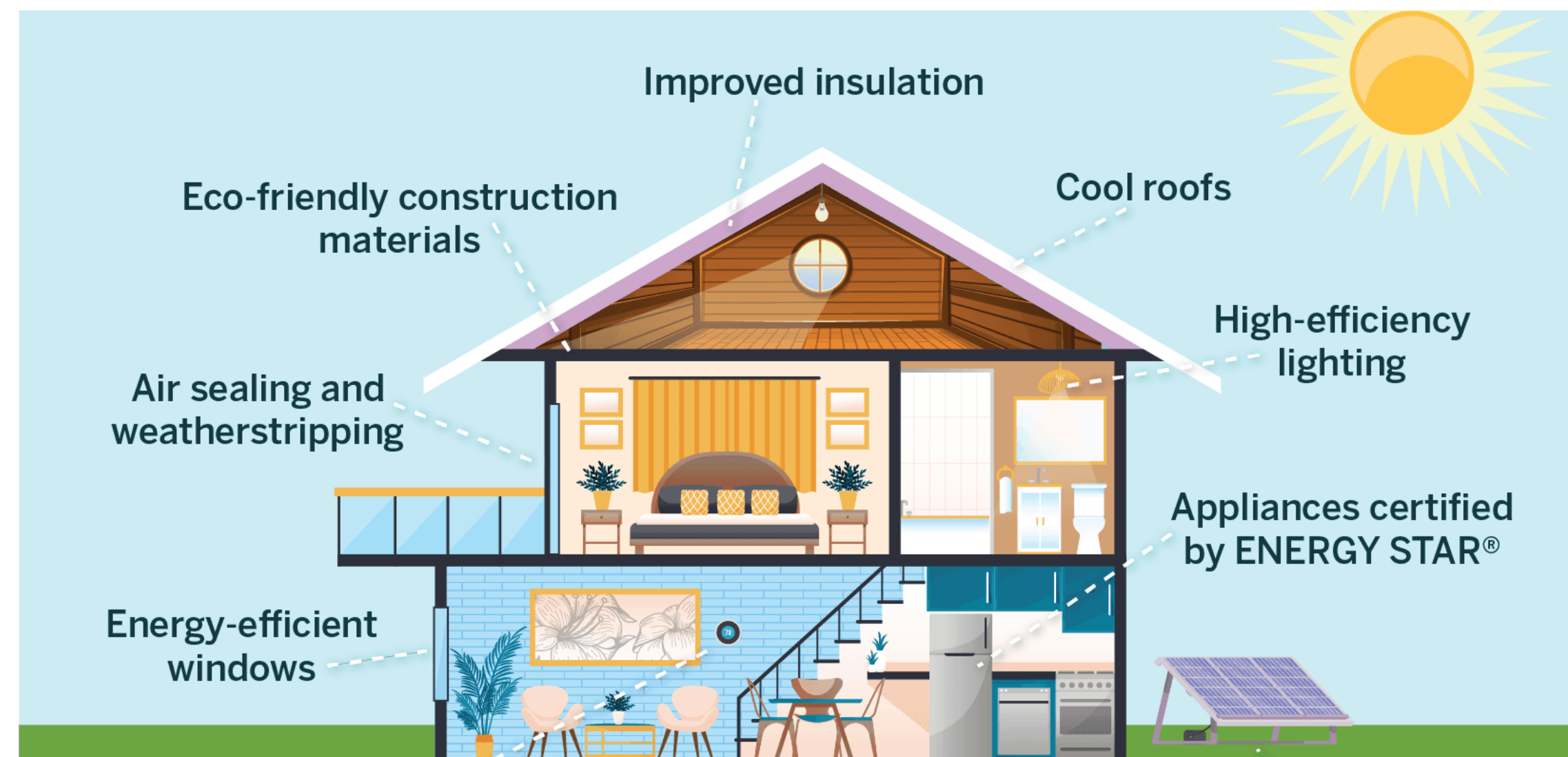
This can save utility customers money on their energy bills. While cost savings are one of the most common reasons why many began to cultivate a culture of energy consciousness it is certainly not the only reason!

Less energy used often means less fossil fuels burned. While there are cleaner methods to generate energy, a portion of the electricity generated today is still from non-renewable sources such as natural gas. Being energy efficient can help lower pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Building Envelope

The building envelope, or enclosure, includes all elements of the outer shell that ensure a dry, heated, or cooled indoor environment and aid in climate control.

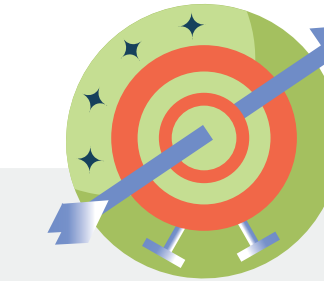


Testimonials

“ LOVE this program! The two team members that came to my house were super helpful. This program is awesome and so beneficial. Highly recommend! ”

“ Very useful. More people should know about this program. ”

eSGV Program Goals



Immediate goals

- Provide accessible energy efficiency (EE) education
- Help residents identify home EE priorities based on a personalized review
- Connect residents with energy efficiency savings opportunities, incentive programs, and financial assistance programs

Long-term goals

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting energy efficiency
- Enable financial savings through cost-saving benefits over time
- Improve home comfort, including temperature
- Encourage lasting behavioral change by educating and facilitating implementation of energy-saving habits

Barriers to Home Energy Efficiency



Cost of upgrades

- Financial constraints preventing upfront investment in energy-efficient upgrades, even with rebate or incentive programs
- Perception that energy-efficient products and services are too expensive



Lack of awareness of rebate programs/incentives

- Eligibility requirements, forms, and processes to receive rebates are confusing, particularly for those who do not speak English as a first language
- Difficulty in meeting income requirements or other eligibility criteria



Lack of education/knowledge about how to increase efficiency

- Limited understanding of energy-saving techniques and technologies, including uncertainty about which actions are most impactful or cost-effective



Time and effort required for upgrades

- Perceived or actual difficulty in finding time for researching and implementing energy-efficient upgrades
- Concerns about disruptions or inconvenience during the upgrade process

Successes

100 Home Energy Assessments completed since launching in Spring 2022

9,000 kWh Total savings potential from 600 energy-saving recommendations

800 Residents engaged at 43 community events



Collaborative Partnerships



eSGV partners with the City of Claremont to help residents identify projects and receive \$5,000 in funding via the city's Energy Efficiency Grant Program.

The City of South Pasadena provided water efficiency buckets to South Pasadena residents who participate in the eSGV program.

Strategies for Engagement



Community Outreach and Education: Hold sessions at community centers, libraries, and schools to teach residents about energy efficiency benefits and program details.

Partnerships with Local Organizations: Work with local environmental groups, nonprofits, and government agencies to enhance outreach.

Targeted Outreach: Make flyers, brochures, social media posts, and email newsletters for different groups, focusing on financial, environmental, and health benefits.

Incentives and Rebates: Show available discounts and rebates on energy-efficient appliances and products, explaining how they save money and improve quality of life.

Personalized Appointments: Provide support through phone, email, and in-person from first contact to follow-up to make sure residents feel supported.

Feedback and Evaluation: Collect feedback to improve the program and show its success with testimonials, case studies, and success stories to encourage participation.

Implementation Challenges



Awareness and Outreach: It was difficult to reach everyone in the community and make sure they knew about the program, especially those unfamiliar with energy efficiency or who don't prioritize it.

Access and Equity: Ensuring everyone, regardless of their background, has access to the program is tough. Those with financial or language barriers might not participate, continuing past inequalities.

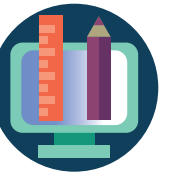
Trust and Credibility: Gaining trust in the community is key for success. People might be skeptical of government or utility programs, especially if they had bad experiences before.

Behavior Change and Engagement: Getting residents to adopt and keep up energy-saving habits and make long-term home changes is challenging and needs ongoing support beyond the first appointment.

Technical Complexity: Some residents might find energy efficiency assessments and recommendations confusing or intimidating. Simplifying these and providing clear advice can help.

Resource Constraints: Limited funding, staff, and resources can limit the program's scope and scale. To make the most impact, strategic prioritization and partner collaboration are needed.

Program Considerations and Replicability



Regulatory and Policy Landscape: Changes in energy regulations and utility programs can affect the program's implementation and effectiveness. Staying updated on these changes and adjusting the program is crucial for program success.

Measurement and Evaluation: Measuring the program's success requires robust evaluation methods. Identifying the right metrics, collecting reliable data, and analyzing results can be challenging but is necessary for continuous improvement and accountability.

Sustainability and Continuity: Ensuring the program's sustainability beyond initial funding is key for lasting impact. Developing a strategic plan for ongoing funding and support is essential.

Replicability and Expansion: Other regions can use the eSGV Program model as a blueprint for replication. They can customize it with rebates and savings applicable to their region. The SGVCOG can share all materials and offer training if needed.