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Friday, March 18, 2011

## **Energy incentives offered in Avondale**

## View report

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Summer is just around the corner, and you know what that means: higher energy bills.

But Avondale residents can save energy as well as a little cash with an energy efficiency rebate program offered through the city.

The U.S. Department of Energy granted Avondale some \$706,000 in funds as part of the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Nearly \$150,000 has been set aside for energy efficiency and conservation incentives and residential electric rebates.

The rebate funds, first announced in October, are still available, but on a first-come, first-served basis, city officials said.

Incentives to Avondale customers are in addition to those offered by Arizona Public Service Co. and Salt River Project. The incentives are calculated on the net cost to the customer after all other rebates at 90 percent up to a maximum amount, officials said.

Three energy rebate programs are available. One is the High-Efficiency Central Air Conditioner Rebate. This \$350 rebate from the city of Avondale is available to qualifying residents if they meet the federal government's standard for awarding tax credits for air conditioner retrofits.

Another is the HVAC Duct Testing and Repair Rebate, in which the maximum rebate from the city for duct testing is \$50, while the maximum rebate for duct repairs is \$100.

The third available offering is the Home Performance with Energy Star Rebate. Avondale will offer a maximum of \$50 in incentives for the home energy audit, up to \$100 for duct sealing, up to \$200 for air sealing, a maximum of \$150 for insulation improvements and a maximum of \$150 for shade screens.

For complete eligibility guidelines and applications on all energy rebate programs available to residents, visit www.avondale.org/energyrebate, or call 623-333-1033.

Interested individuals can also learn more about the rebate program in person by visiting Avondale's booth at EcoAvenues from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 26.

EcoAvenues is a free event held at Estrella Mountain Community College, 3000 N. Dysart Road, which showcases environmentally friendly products, services, education and activities from businesses and organizations

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throughout the Valley.

EcoAvenues allows residents access to information and resources to help them live greener, more sustainable lives, officials said.

For information, visit www.ecoavanues.com.

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