

Energy audits can help Highland Park residents cut utility bills

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Highland Park homeowners are now eligible for free or low-cost energy assessments to identify improvements that could lower energy bills.

The energy audits are provided through a partnership between the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Energy Impact Illinois. Highland Park homeowners may be eligible for a 70 percent rebate, up to \$1,750, on insulating and air sealing improvements. The assessments may take between two and three hours, and the repairs may take between one and two days.

Applications can be submitted online or over the phone.

“These audits can increase the overall energy efficiency of the city, and reduce individual home owners’ energy costs by providing information on how to make more efficient use of energy,” Council member Tony Blumberg said. “This allows us to become more aware of our own use of energy and may increase outside efficiency beyond the home.”

Energy Impact Illinois is an organization that helps homeowners retrofit their homes with energy efficient upgrades that save money and make homes more comfortable. Its goal is to also create jobs, help the environment, and increase energy independence. In order to help the Chicago area meet its goals from the 2008 Chicago Climate Action Plan, CMAP and its partners created Energy Impact Illinois utilizing grant funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.

To sign up for the program or for more information, call 1-855-9-IMPACT or visit <http://www.energyimpactillinois.org>.