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# Energy-efficiency program explained in Plainfield

By Madhu Mayer Correspondent January 30, 2013 8:50AM

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Lowering energy costs requires more than adjusting the thermostat or replacing old windows.

Brandon Pettigrew, a field organizer for Will and Kendall counties' with Energy Impact Illinois, an alliance that helps residents lower their energy costs, presented information Monday to the Plainfield Village Board on a residential home energy efficiency assessment and grant program.

The goal of Energy Impact Illinois is to reduce energy consumption to make homes, neighborhoods and the community a better place, he said.

The alliance is led by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, in partnership with the city of Chicago, city of Rockford, ComEd, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Science and Technology Coalition, Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas, Peoples Gas and the Northern Illinois Energy Project.

"We educate homeowners on how they can become more energy efficient in their homes," Pettigrew said. The education is done through community meetings to familiarize people with the program.

Energy Impact Illinois is offering Chicago-area residents rebates of up to \$1,750 to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, he said. The rebates offer homeowners an easy way to address important home maintenance, like air sealing and insulation.

"More than half of a homeowner's total energy costs come from heating and cooling, and almost all homes let too much air escape or penetrate through leaks," said Randy Blankenhorn, executive director of CMAP.

Blankenhorn said residents can take advantage of the rebates by calling 855-946-7228 to get connected with a certified contractor. The contractor will then conduct an energy analysis of the home and identify the most cost-effective improvements.

"The contractor completes the work and applies the instant rebates, provided by Energy Impact Illinois and your local utility, of up to \$1,750 to your contractor bill," he said.

So far in Plainfield, Pettigrew said the alliance has organized three "house parties" where he is accompanied by a licensed contractor who shows the homeowner air leaks and if insulation is warranted. Another four to five similar events have been scheduled in February.

For information, visit [www.energyimpactillinois.org](http://www.energyimpactillinois.org).