

City of Plano's \$SMART Energy Loan: Residential Energy Improvement Program

Michelle Long
Smart Energy Loan Coordinator

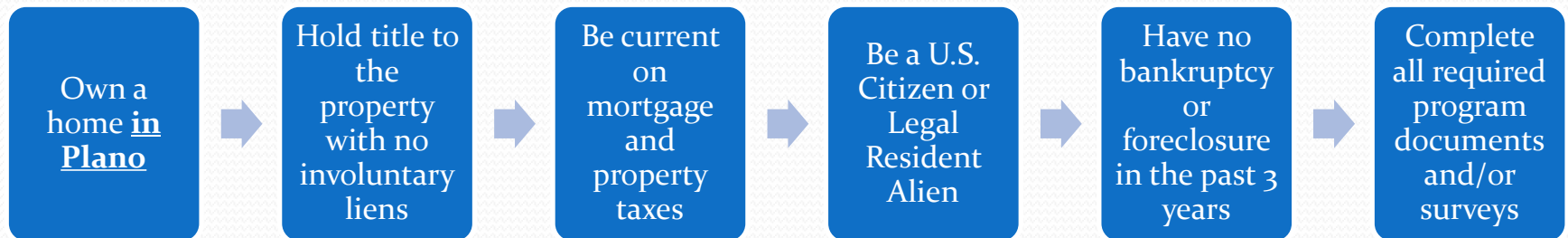
972-769-4335

smartenergyloans@plano.gov

www.smartenergyloans.com



Resident Eligibility



Program Specifics

Homeowner (H\O) applies online to City of Plano

If initial program criteria is met, H\O receives an eligibility letter and applies for financing through C.U. of Texas

Once loan approval is received, H\O will schedule a home energy audit, decide on project scope of work and obtain an estimate

Improvements must be approved by the City w/a PEL issued for work to begin

H\O coordinates work & a post home energy audit and final, signed invoice is sent to the City at project completion.

City issues QAC to H\O & C.U. of Texas to close and fund joint check to H\O & contractor

- Projects over **\$10,000** can receive “construction funding” to assist through the project

Whole-House Weatherization

Package – Prerequisite

- Sealing ducts, windows, doors and wall penetrations
- HVAC tune-up
- Attic insulation of at least R-38
- Insulating/sealing recessed lights in ceilings
- Installation of at least 50% CFL or LED bulbs
- Insulating water heater tanks

Acceptable Renewable Systems

- Solar Photovoltaic Arrays
- Small wind turbines

Funding Requirement:

All funded \$SMART applications must achieve at least a 20% energy efficiency improvement (or at least a HERS rating of 85 or better) prior to funding the installation of any on-site renewable or energy generation systems.

Solar Projects through SEL

- The SEL program has funded 5 solar projects since April 2014
- Our contractor guidelines are becoming more flexible to allow more contractors, including solar companies, to participate.





Plano Solar Advocates (PSA)

www.planosolar.org

About PSA

- A grass-roots volunteer group of Plano residents
- Many are also "Live Green in Plano" volunteers
- To learn more, see www.planosolar.org

PSA mission

- To increase awareness and expand the use of Solar Energy for electricity generation in Plano and beyond

PSA works closely with

- City of Plano Sustainability & Environmental Education (LiveGreeninPlano.com)
- North Texas Renewable Energy Group (www.ntreg.org)
- North Central Texas Council of Governments (www.nctcog.org/solar)
- Texas Solar Energy Society (www.txses.org)



PSA Projects

www.planosolar.org/p/projects.html

- Outreach Events – such as Learn2LiveGreen Expo, Earth Day Texas, Collin County Farmers Market, local Eco Fairs



- Plano's Comprehensive Plan Update – Think “Solar Friendly” and “Solar Ready”
- Working Groups - Buildings and Fire Codes, Net Metering, Real Estate Valuation
- Solar for Schools
- Solar Education for Schools





PSA Solarize Plano Projects

www.solarizeplano.org

- Organized “Solarize Plano Projects” to educate consumers, simplify the process, obtain discounted pricing, and make a “limited time” offer

- **2013 Solarize Plano Project**

- 200+ enrolled, 52 site assessments, **20 installations**

- **2014 Solarize Plano Project**

- 193 enrolled, 56 site assessments, **22 installations**



- Positive impacts!
 - Residents made ***long term investments in their homes***
 - Producing ***LOCAL CLEAN energy*** to help them ***hedge and stabilize*** a portion of their long term electricity costs
 - ***Reduce the peak electricity demand*** on the state’s electric grid by ***locally producing 300,000 kWh annually***, and with ***no air, water, or noise pollution!***
 - ***Reduced water consumption*** in North Texas, because unlike traditional electricity generation, creating electricity from solar PV panels requires no water.
 - ***Helped the local economy*** through increased local business sales and jobs.
- Launched “Go Solar at Home” project in 2015, **available to all of North Texas**, to educate consumers and connect those interested to obtain quotes from 3 companies.



Ideas For Your Community

- Enlist your citizens and volunteers to start a grassroots solar advocacy group in your community
 - Encourage them to connect and learn from Plano Solar Advocates and the North Texas Renewable Energy Group

- Help them to collaborate with local governments and other community organizations for ideas and projects

- Consider launching a “solarize” project in your area - like Plano, Garland, and others across the state (see www.solarizetexas.org)

Green is Growing in Plano!

Green Business Certified



CITY OF PLANO

Plano.gov/greenbusiness



Green Business Certification

GBC Program





Green Business Certification Checklist

Multi-Family/Apartment

Office/Retail

Restaurant

Grocery

GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION (GBC)

Business Name: **Plano**
 Business Address: **4200 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75093**
 Plano, TX ZIP: **75093**
 Commercial Recycling: **972-769-4393**

OFFICE/RETAIL CHECKLIST

- General Education
- Waste Reduction
- Energy Efficiency
- Water Efficiency
- Pollution Prevention
- Sustainable Purchasing
- Innovation

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIRED MEASURES

1	Create Green Business Policy that highlights your commitment to sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Post Green Business Policy in a visible location for your employees.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Establish a green team to assist management with green business initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Provide incentives or training to encourage employee participation in ongoing GBC criteria.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Post GBC decal in a visible location and on company website, if applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Schedule quarterly communications to keep employees involved in environmental improvements.	<input type="checkbox"/>

WASTE REDUCTION REQUIRED MEASURES

1	Conduct annual assessment of your company's waste.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Participate in single-stream recycling.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Eliminate Styrofoam in break rooms.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Provide reusable, compostable and/or recyclable kitchenware for employee use.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Recycle reusable, compostable and/or recyclable kitchenware for employee use.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Recycle print cartridges.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Recycle company-issued cell phones.	<input type="checkbox"/>

WASTE REDUCTION OPTIONAL MEASURES
Choose 6 Measures

7	Provide filtration system for drinking water.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Eliminate individual disposable water bottles in restrooms.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Install hygienic, energy-efficient hand dryers in restrooms.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Set printer default to double-sided printing and grayscale; make double-sided copies.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Reduce paper documents by creating electronic files.	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Send and receive faxes directly from computers without printing.	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Reuse office paper for scratch paper.	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Use marketing materials that require no energy.	<input type="checkbox"/>





Green Business Certification

Assessment Categories



General Education



Waste Reduction



Energy Efficiency



Water Efficiency



Green Business Certification

Assessment Categories



Pollution
Prevention



Sustainable
Purchasing



Innovation



Green Business Certification

Solar Innovation Credits

WHISKEY
CAKE KITCHEN
BAR



REVITALIZATION & REINVESTMENT

Neighborhood Services Department



March 30, 2015



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



REQUIREMENTS

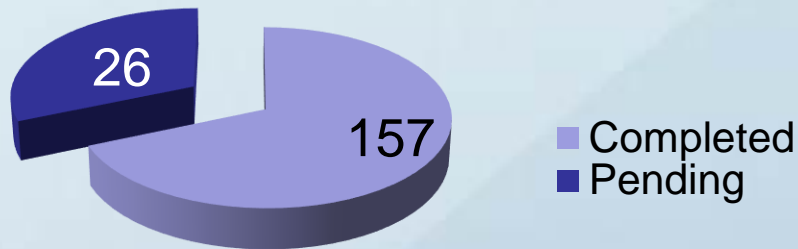
- ❖ HOME IS 35 YRS OLD OR OLDER
- ❖ MAXIMUM APPRAISED VALUE IS \$234,255
- ❖ MANDATORY 10% INVESTMENT OF APPRAISED VALUE





HOMEOWNER INVESTMENT

TOTAL PROJECTS TO DATE: 183



- ✓ 163 properties are owner-occupied (89%)
- ✓ 20 properties are investor-owned (11%)



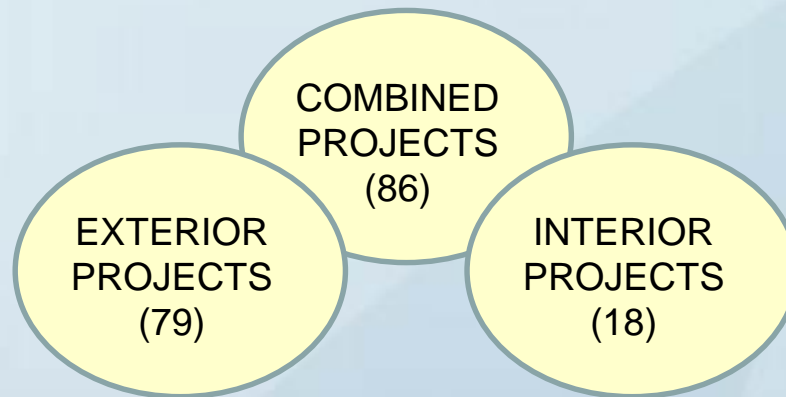
**PLANO HOMEOWNERS
HAVE INVESTED OVER
\$4.9 MILLION DOLLARS
INTO THEIR PROPERTIES**

**PROGRAM HAS BEEN IN PLACE
SINCE APRIL 30, 2014 (23 MONTHS)**





IMPROVEMENT TYPES



**AVERAGE
PROJECT
COST
\$27,164**

Type	Investment	Average Cost	% of \$4.9M Investment
Exterior	\$3.0 M	\$16,273	59.9%
Interior	\$1.9 M	\$10,891	40.1%





REBATES

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCUMBERED
OVER \$800K**

**53.1% OF THE \$1,515,512
ALLOCATED**



**AVERAGE REBATE CHECK
\$4,355**





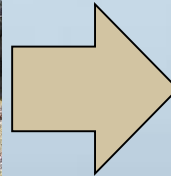
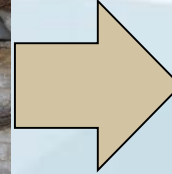
PROCESS TIMEFRAME

**Average Days from Application Meeting
to Notice to Proceed: 7 days**

**Average Days from Notice to Proceed to
Final Inspection: 85 days**

**Average Days from Final Inspection to
Rebate Processed: 13 days**



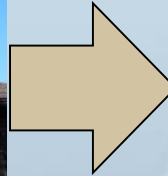


These solar investments were part of a bigger project.

SOLAR SCREENS



These solar investments were part of a bigger project.



SOLAR PANELS





WHAT HOMEOWNERS ARE SAYING

**“THIS IS A GREAT
PROGRAM”**

**“STAFF MADE THE
PROCESS EASY TO
UNDERSTAND,
SEAMLESS AND
BEYOND MY
EXPECTATIONS.”**

**“REBATE MONEY
CAN BE USED FOR
FUTURE
PROJECTS”**

**“WE REALLY
APPRECIATE
HOW QUICKLY
EVERYTHING
WAS
PROCESSED.”**

**“I AM
ALREADY
THINKING OF
NEXT YEAR’S
PROJECTS.”**





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Aida Villa, Community Services Coordinator
Neighborhood Services Department
Community Services Division
1520 K Avenue, Ste. 250
Plano, TX
972-941-7151 / 972-208-8150
aidav@plano.gov

Visit us at: www.plano.gov/greatupdaterebate

Email us at: greatupdaterebate@plano.gov

