

Rebate Program for Energy Efficiency Announced by Salt Spring CRD Director, Gary Holman

CRD Director, Gary Holman has announced a one-time rebate program of \$75 for 110 households on Salt Spring Island to reduce the cost of energy assessments for homeowners. These assessments are currently subsidized by the provincial government but they still cost \$150 for the initial assessment.

The assessment provides the homeowner with a personalized consultation that quantifies and identifies air leakage, suggests a customized retrofit plan for the home and calculates a baseline EnerGuide rating, a number on a scale of 0-100, that describes how the home rates for energy efficiency. This assessment is also the first step to becoming eligible for thousands of dollars worth of energy efficiency incentives under both the provincial LiveSmart BC: Efficiency Incentive program and the federal ecoACTION Retrofit - Homes program. For more information on the incentives available visit www.livesmart.bc.ca.

³Salt Spring won one of the first Green Cities awards from a field of 167 electoral areas across BC and was awarded \$25,000 for exemplary local CRD projects and progressive Islands Trust land use initiatives", said Salt Spring CRD Director Gary Holman. After consulting with various organizations and individuals, I decided to use half of the awards for rebates for energy efficiency assessments.² Holman went on to announce ³the other half will fund a low flush toilet rebate program in conjunction with Salt Spring Water Council and local water districts. This program will be similar to the long standing CRD water rebate program in the Greater Victoria area².

"I congratulate Salt Spring on being the first local government in the province to provide funding support for the \$60 million LiveSmart BC program and together we can help British Columbians reduce their carbon footprint through energy efficiency upgrades,² said Murray Coell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands. ³I encourage Salt Spring residents to join the almost 8,300 British Columbians who have applied for rebates through LiveSmart BC so far this year.²

The rebate was announced at a community meeting to discuss a Community Action and Energy Efficiency(CAEE) Gold report commissioned by Islands Trust and administered by CRD. The report findings and recommendations were presented by Pembina Institute and lawyer, Deborah Curran and are intended to help Salt Spring meet its Energy Strategy targets. The three part final report is posted on www.islandstrust.bc.ca, www.crd.bc.ca, and www.saltspringenergystrategy.org/ websites.

CityGreen Solutions, a non-profit delivery agent of the ecoENERGY/LiveSmartBC homeowner grants, will coordinate the Salt Spring home energy assessment rebate program.

Since there are only 110 rebates available, they will be awarded on a first come first served basis. Contact City Green at 1 866 381 9995 to book your assessment or www.citygreen.ca