

FREE ENERGY AUDITS!

by Maria Nabors, Career Discovery Center, Racine County Workforce Development Center

Together We Save

Needed--100 Homes

Free Energy Audits for City of Racine Homeowners

One hundred City of Racine homeowners can get free energy inspections performed by young workers through the "Together We Save" project led by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

"Together We Save" is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It is designed to train young people in "green jobs" and to help residents save energy and money at home. Five young workers were trained as Energy Advocates through Focus on Wisconsin. They are now ready to provide participating homeowners with free energy audits.

During the audit, the Energy Advocates will conduct a walk-through of the home, sharing with homeowners how the home is using, or misusing, energy. Homeowners will also receive free installations of energy-saving devices, including a water-saving shower head, a faucet aerator and a compact fluorescent light bulb.

The Energy Advocates will take the time to answer questions and offer tips, such as showing homeowners the optimal settings for refrigerators and freezers, thermostats and water heaters. They will also show homeowners how to read and understand their energy bills.

After the audit, homeowners will receive a copy of their audit form and The Home Performance with Energy Star Program packet, with additional ongoing support and other information focused on energy efficiency.

Crystal Redmond, leader of the Energy Advocates, stated, "The training provided by Focus on Wisconsin equipped me and my colleagues with the skills to conduct a professional and efficient mini-audit of a home. If equipment is found to be old or inefficient, we can recommend solutions and inform homeowners about financial incentives for qualifying upgrades. In addition, the program taught me leadership and problem-solving skills that will serve me well throughout my career."

Participation is limited to 100 homes and the program ends September 30, 2009.

Don't miss this limited-time opportunity to save energy and money with energy efficiency improvements that are good for you, your family, and the environment. Interested homeowners in the City of Racine are encouraged to learn more about the program and schedule a home energy audit by calling (262)221-1067.