



NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD CASE STUDY

Long Island Green Homes (LIGH) - Honored for implementing the first municipally administered and financed energy-efficient retrofit program in the nation

SUMMARY



The Long Island Green Homes (LIGH) Project was awarded in 2010 for delivering a convenient, one-stop retrofit for eligible homes. Homeowners enjoyed enhanced comfort at minimal costs and recognized measurable utility savings. Certified contractors work with Long Island Green Homes to help homeowners to receive money savings as they complete energy efficient improvements to their homes.

BENEFITS

LIGH began in 2008 and at the time of the award, had resulted in over 400 houses becoming more energy efficient through upgrades and retrofits. The average participating homeowner saved over \$1,000 annually in utility costs. In total, as of 2010, the program had saved 115,300 kilowatts of electricity, 75,485 gallons of oil, 29,000 cubic feet of natural gas and 2,421 gallons



of propane. In addition, carbon dioxide emissions were reduced by 1,080 tons annually.

Residents from the nearby environmental justice community of Wyandanch, NY were trained in green jobs and provided a skilled workforce for the program.

KEY METRICS

- 1,080 tons of CO₂ emissions reduced annually
- Reduced air infiltration by 23%
- 115 kWh saved
- 75,000 gallons of oil saved
- 29,000 CCF natural gas saved
- 2,400 gallons of propane saved

ABOUT LONG ISLAND GREEN HOMES

- Municipally administered delivery, providing one-stop retrofits to homeowners to make their homes more affordable

NYS Environmental Excellence Award: Annual recognition of outstanding innovative and sustainable projects or programs and unique partnerships that are improving and protecting New York State's environmental resources and contributing to a stronger economy

A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE

- One-stop retrofit process to single family and multi-residence buildings
- Homeowners are connected with government funds and local, certified contractors to receive money saving and energy efficient improvements to their homes.
- Retrofits reduce a home's carbon footprint and saves the home owner money
- This collaborative approach stimulates the local economy through job growth and business opportunities
- Program spurred like-minded efforts nationwide

HIGHLIGHTS

To finance the LIGH in 2008, the Town of Babylon drew on its solid waste reserve. The town was able to recoup the monies for retrofits by levying a benefit assessment on the property. The Town of Babylon's benefit-assessed clean energy (BACE) financing is, effectively, the precursor for PACE (property-assessed clean energy) which, in 2010, had already been adopted by 20 states.



By establishing a revolving fund and crafting market-based financial prescriptions, money expended is recouped in a self-sustaining operation. LIGH has minimized any liabilities and optimized operational effectiveness by partnering with major stakeholders at every step of the process. LIGH's partners include government agencies such as NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), contractors, unions, realtors, bankers, community groups, schools and colleges and utility providers.

FUNDING

The Town of Babylon drew \$3.5 million from its solid waste reserve to finance the initial Long Island Green Homes Program in 2008.

Currently, it operates as a non-profit collaborative partnership of Long Island Towns, community-based organizations and Molloy College funded primarily with a community outreach grant awarded by NYSERDA.