



March 2010

Inside College Station

From the City of College Station, Home of Texas A&M University • College Station, Texas



Energy Efficiency Investments

Now is the best time to invest in energy efficiency for your home. Many home improvements carry a 2010 federal tax credit, and approved Energy Star appliances, purchased between April 16 and April 25, will qualify for a cash rebate from the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO). Homeowners may further qualify for cash rebates from an array of energy conservation rebates offered by the College Station Utility Energy Services Division.

FEDERAL TAX CREDITS

The Consumer Energy Efficiency Federal Tax Credit was approved by the stimulus bill that was passed by Congress in 2009. A tax credit differs from a tax deduction in that the tax credit reduces tax directly, while a tax deduction or allowance reduces only the taxable income. Homeowners wanting to take advantage of the tax credit may do so by adding insulation, reflective roofing, or installing energy-efficient windows, doors, water heater or a heating and air conditioning system. Homeowners will receive 30 percent of the cost, up to \$1,500, back via the federal tax credit. These installations apply solely to existing principal residences (non-rentals) through

Dec. 31, 2010, whereas installations of geothermal heat pumps, solar energy systems, residential wind turbines and fuel cells also apply to newly constructed homes through Dec. 31, 2016. Some installation costs also are covered by the tax credit.

For information on qualifying installations for the federal tax credit and how to file for and obtain the tax credits, visit the Energy Star Web site at energystar.gov/taxcredits.

SECO REBATES

On Dec. 11, 2009, the Department of Energy approved a state award of \$23 million to the SECO for a state-wide rebate program for energy efficient appliances. Appliance mail-in rebates will be available (directly and via advanced reservations) to consumers who purchase eligible Energy Star appliances to replace the same type of existing functional appliance. The rebate period will be between April 16 and 25, during a period that coincides with Earth Day. Qualifying appliances include Energy Star refrigerators and freezers, 14.5 cubic feet or greater, clothes

washers, dishwashers, room and central air conditioners and heat pumps.

Texas consumers will have an opportunity to reserve an appliance rebate by registering online approximately two weeks prior to the beginning of the rebate period. The rebate program will not be retroactive and will only apply to eligible appliances purchased once the program begins. SECO will be working with retailers and recycling facilities to create a system to help consumers replace and recycle their old appliances. Purchasers will be limited to two appliance rebates and two recycling rebates per household.

For more program information or to sign up for rebate information e-mails, visit seco.cpa.state.tx.us/arra/rebate/index.php#offers.

CSU REBATES

College Station Utilities has long held a commitment to the promotion of energy efficiency. In honor of our commitment, CSU offers numerous energy conservation rebate packages to encourage and assist College Station Utility electric customers in addressing their personalized energy conservation needs. Should you decide to participate in the federal tax credit program, the CSU Energy Back II Air Conditioning Replacement Program and/or the Sun Source Residential PV Solar Rebate Program, you may be entitled to additional rebates from College Station Utilities.

For more information, contact the CSU Energy Services personnel at 979.764.6274 or visit cstx.gov/utilities.

For more eco-friendly tips, visit:

cstx.gov/green



Duck Jam -----



Willie Nelson and .38 Special will headline the fifth annual Duck Jam at Wolf Pen Creek. The event will take place on April 23 and 24.

Playhouse Disney's Choo-Choo Soul will headline the kid's stage at The Lil' Quack Kid's Area. Other attractions for children will include: Chrome's Duck Dos, Rich O'Toole's Music Shop, and hands-on activities, art and games hosted by the Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley.

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is the world's largest and most successful wetland and waterfowl conservation organization. According to DU, the United States has already lost half of its wetland acreage and continues to sacrifice 80,000 acres each year, but with the help of more than a million supporters, DU has successfully conserved more than 12 million acres of nature's most productive ecosystem. Proceeds from Duck Jam will support DU's conservation efforts.

This is a rain or shine event for all ages. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit duckjam.org.

2010 Census at a Glance ----

The census is a count of everyone living in the United States, both citizens and noncitizens. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Participating in the census can impact your quality of life for the better. Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to state and local governments based on census data. Census data also guide local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, child-care and senior centers, schools and more—even

where to locate supermarkets, businesses, new housing and other facilities.

Census Day is April 1, 2010. All 2010 Census responses should represent the household as it exists on this day.

Census forms will be delivered or mailed to households in March. Households should complete and mail back their form upon receipt, including student households. Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take a count in person. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

For more information on our local efforts, visit cstx.gov/2010census. You can also get information at 2010census.gov.

Brazos Valley Earth Day ----

Brazos Valley Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 17, at Wolf Pen Creek from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free to the public.

Brazos Valley Earth Day, formally known as the Planet Earth Celebration, is a community-wide public education event held annually on the Saturday of Earth Day in April. Representative businesses, city services and service organizations throughout the Brazos Valley will provide information, educational demonstrations and displays on a variety of environmental topics.

For more information, contact Recycling Coordinator Heather Qualls at 979.764.6229 or hqualls@cstx.gov. You can also visit brazosvalleyearthday.com for up-to-date information.

Brazos Valley Senior Games

The Brazos Valley Senior Games provide an excellent and exciting opportunity for adults 50 years of age and older to compete in a variety of sports and recreational events that promote fitness, wellness and a healthy lifestyle.

The deadline for registration is April 8. Visit the Brazos Valley Senior Games Web site

at brazosvalleyseniorgames.org or call the College Station Parks and Recreation Department, Senior Services, at 979.764.6371 for more details.

Save Water, Energy & Money

Get Flush With Savings

Save money with every flush by replacing your water-guzzling toilet with a Water Sense labeled toilet. Save even more money with a rebate from College Station Utilities. Rebates are available for new Water Sense certified tank-type toilets that are replacing older models (3 or more gallons per flush) or in new construction.

Save Up for a Rainy Day

Install a rainwater collection barrel and make the rain work for you. Rebates are available now for rainwater collection barrels of 30 gallons or more, used for non-potable (non-drinking) water.

Spring into Conservation

Get your sprinkler system in shape for spring and summer gardening with a free Irrigation Check-Up. Call 979.764.6344 or email cwhite@cstx.gov to schedule your check-up today!

For more information about rebate programs and how to make every drop count, visit cstx.gov/green or call 979.764.6223.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Saturday, April 24
7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
University Services Building
3380 University Drive East

For a complete list of accepted items visit cstx.gov/hhw or call Hazardous Waste Hotline at 979.764.3809.