

ENERGY INSIGHTS

JULY 2022

A newsletter for residential customers of Holyoke Gas & Electric



REDUCE COOLING & HEATING COSTS

Taking steps to air seal and insulate your home can significantly reduce the amount of energy used to cool or heat your home. A tighter, more insulated home will not only save you money on operating costs and reduce your carbon emissions throughout the year -- it may also allow you to buy a smaller, less expensive heating and/or cooling system. **Get started today by scheduling a free home energy audit by calling (888) 333-7525**, which will help you determine the cost and benefits of weatherizing your home.

Below are weatherization recommendations that will help reduce your heating and cooling costs!

Air sealing: Ensuring there are as few gaps as possible for indoor air to escape and outdoor air to get in reduces the heating and cooling load in a home. Air leakage can represent up to 40% of space-conditioning costs in a leaky building. Weatherization professionals will focus on sealing leaks hidden in the attic, garage, or between floors. Air sealing often involves re-sealing windows, replacing broken or jammed vents, and replacing the rubber seals around door frames. Experienced professionals will know the common culprits of air leakage to target, but a professional assessment of hidden leaks using a blower door pressure test of the house is the best way to find where leaks are located.

Insulation: Having proper insulation in your home, especially in the attic, is one of the most cost effective ways to reduce your heating and cooling costs. Heat transfer through the building envelope (walls, roof, floors, etc) is the leading cause of heat loss in the winter. Working with a professional contractor to improve roof, wall, and floor insulation can considerably lower heat transfer, improving your home's efficiency. Many insulation contractors are trained to air seal before insulating, when it's much easier to do.

Ductwork Upgrades: If your home utilizes a centralized heating or cooling unit with ducts outside of the conditioned space of the home (e.g., in an attic, basement, garage, or crawlspace), sealing and insulating the ducts can significantly improve the overall efficiency of your system by ensuring that more of the heated or cooled air gets delivered to where it is needed.

HG&E Weatherization Incentives

Blower Door Test <small>HG&E's free home energy audit recommended</small>	50%, up to \$500
Insulation, Air Sealing, Duct Sealing <small>HG&E's free home energy audit required</small>	50%, up to \$2,000
Residential Energy Conservation Program <small>HG&E's free home energy audit required for weatherization</small>	Financial assistance at 0% interest for the implementation of qualifying energy efficiency and electrification projects.

For more information on rebates and incentives, please email efficiency@hged.com or visit www.hged.com/save.

RATE COMPARISONS

LOWEST ELECTRIC RATE



June 2022: Residential customer consuming 500 kWh/month. Amounts shown include all discounts and use the fixed default generation supply price.

LOWEST NATURAL GAS RATE



June 2022: Residential customer consuming 33 CCF/month. Amounts shown include all discounts.

HG&E Educates!

HG&E is committed to providing safety education to our community.

Throughout the year, representatives from HG&E spend time visiting Holyoke's seniors and school children to discuss the importance of gas, electric, and canal safety. We hope you will enjoy some great photos from our latest visits!



HG&E Main Office
 99 Suffolk Street
 Holyoke, MA 01040
 (413) 536-9300
 www.hged.com

Customer Service Hours:
 Monday - Friday
 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Contact Customer Service:
 (413) 536-9300
 Customer_Accounts@hged.com

Marketing/Communications:
 Kate Sullivan Craven
 ksullivan@hged.com

A message from the City of Holyoke Office of Community Development

City of Holyoke Pandemic Recovery Survey

Enter to Win Lunch with Mayor Joshua Garcia or a \$200 Gift Card!

The City of Holyoke received over \$40 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds from the United States Treasury to aid in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The first half of ARPA funds have been provided to projects like small business grants, water and sewer infrastructure, housing development, non-profit facility improvements, and mental health services.

The City and Mayor Garcia want to know the community needs for the next round of funding. **Please take the ARPA Community Survey** which is available by scanning the QR codes in this announcement. The survey will be available from July 1 through August 16, 2022 and is available in additional languages and accessible formats upon request. To request a paper copy or for more information, please contact please contact the City of Holyoke Office for Community Development at **(413) 322-5610**, on **Facebook @Holyoke OCD**, via email **zoellera@holyoke.org**, or at **www.holyoke.org**.

Survey participants will be entered into a random drawing to win lunch with Mayor Garcia or a \$200 gift card!

ENGLISH SURVEY



SPANISH SURVEY



A message from the City of Holyoke Tax Assessors Office

Attention Senior Homeowners

As a homeowner you may qualify for a tax exemption of up to \$1,000 if you meet the following criteria:

- Owned and occupied your home for 5 years as of July 1, 2022
- Age 67 by July 1, 2022 or older
- Taxes must be current
- Must not exceed income and asset guidelines

	INCOME	ASSETS
SINGLE	\$25,201**	\$40,000
MARRIED	\$37,802**	\$55,000
<small>**Gross income from all sources including Social Security deduction</small>		

Please contact the City of Holyoke Assessor's Office at **(413) 322-5550**. The Assessor team will be happy to assist with submitting an application.

Holiday Closings

Labor Day
 Monday, September 5

Commissioners

Francis J. Hoey, III
James A. Sutter
Marcos A. Marrero

Manager

James M. Lavelle



SAVE THE DATE: Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative invites Holyoke Public School students to their Annual Back to School Event on Saturday, August 20th from 11 am to 3pm at McNally Field (Kelly School)! For additional information, please contact Ed Caisse at (413) 858-0225.