



Office of the City Manager

September 21, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, Interim City Manager
Subject: Rebates for BESO Home Energy Score Assessments for Berkeley Homeowners

The Office of Energy and Sustainable Development is now offering rebates of up to \$200 to Berkeley homeowners for completing a Home Energy Score energy assessment. Homes that participate in the rebate program automatically achieve early compliance with Berkeley's new Building Energy Saving Ordinance (BESO) which goes into effect on December 1, 2015. Rebates can be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. A total of \$15,000 is available for these Home Energy Score rebates.

Homeowners can apply online for a rebate reservation at the [BESO Webpage](#). Funds will be awarded based on availability. Applicants hire a Home Energy Score Registered Energy Assessor to complete a home energy assessment and are eligible for a rebate check for up to \$200, but not exceeding the cost of the assessment. Rebates are available for early BESO compliance only — in order to be eligible, Berkeley homeowners must not currently have their house listed for sale.

Energy assessments are the first step in understanding a home's energy performance. A Home Energy Score energy assessment provides an energy score from 1 to 10, similar to a car's miles-per-gallon rating. The comprehensive assessments analyze home energy performance and provide tailored recommendations for a healthier, more comfortable and more energy efficient home. The energy assessment reports will also connect homeowners with information on incentives that make energy upgrades more affordable. Home Energy Score is an energy assessment tool developed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

The adoption of the BESO and these rebates that incentivize early compliance are key implementation actions of the Berkeley Climate Action Plan. The funding for these rebates comes from rate-payer funds through PG&E awarded for Berkeley's participation as a semifinalist in the Georgetown University Energy Prize contest.

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For more information on the Home Energy Score Energy Assessment Rebate for early compliance with BESO see, [BESO Webpage](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/BESO) at www.cityofberkeley.info/BESO.

If you have any questions, please contact Billi Romain at (510) 981-7432.

cc: Gil Dong, Interim Deputy City Manager
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