

Attachment 3: Green Blocks Program Description

The City of Missoula has partnered with NorthWestern Energy on an energy conservation project called “Green Blocks” that will provide energy audits and some energy conservation measures free of charge to eight residential blocks in Missoula. This pilot project will bring public awareness to NorthWestern Energy’s energy conservation programs. The project group consists of the Missoula Mayor's Advisory Group on Climate Change, the Mayor's staff, Allied Waste Co., Mountain Water Co., and NorthWestern Energy members. The city of Missoula has created a website for the project: <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/greenblocks.htm> and inquiries about the Green Blocks program, applications, or selection process should be directed to the Missoula Mayor's Office at 435 Ryman, or to Kisha Schlegel, Grants Administrator for Missoula (406-258-3688).

Information regarding the Green Blocks project was presented to the Missoula Community Forum on April 24, 2008. Applications for the program were distributed at the meeting and can also be found on the website of the City of Missoula. Four (4) two-block areas will be selected in early June by the Green Blocks steering committee, which is made up of citizen members of the Mayor’s advisory group and some city staff members. Applications must be submitted to the Mayor's Office (435 Ryman, Missoula, MT 59802) by May 22, 2008. NorthWestern Energy is neither handling applications nor choosing the participating residences. One person who will coordinate the two-block application must submit all individual residential applications. Individual residents may not apply.

To participate, residents must be located in the city of Missoula and must be NorthWestern Energy electricity and/or natural gas customers. Homes should use electricity or natural gas for their primary space heat. Neither commercial buildings nor homes built after 1990 are eligible. Owner-occupied, single family homes are preferred but not required. A 90% participation rate for each two-block area is preferable, meaning that 90% of the residential addresses in the two-block area will need to submit an individual application and agree to participate. It is desirable to demonstrate energy savings across a broad spectrum of housing vintages. Therefore, each two-block area selected should represent a distinct, predominant vintage of homes ranging from homes built before 1920 to homes built before 1990.

All participants will be required to sign a participant agreement allowing access to the home and allowing for the contractors to perform the work. The form also relieves NorthWestern Energy and its subcontractors from liability. Renters will need permission from their landlords to participate. Likewise, the tenant must grant access for the audit and for the contractor work. Selected participants must be present at the time of any scheduled work and follow-up inspection of work performed. Residents are also expected to participate in a phone survey after work on their homes is complete and should be willing to participate in publicity.

KEMA, NorthWestern Energy's contractor, will coordinate and oversee all energy-related project work, record information about energy saving measures installed or performed in each home, and provide several participant informational meetings. KEMA and NorthWestern Energy audits and insulation work are performed and tracked independently from conservation audits and measures installed by other program partners like Allied Waste and Mountain Water. However, the other program participants may choose to coordinate their audit times with the NorthWestern Energy audits to minimize time required by the homeowners.

Once the four participating two-block areas have been selected, KEMA will first conduct an energy audit for each participating household. For the Green Blocks project, no one will be excluded from the Energy Audit process because they've already had an audit but, depending on the amount of information already available about the home (e.g. previous audits), the approach to the audit may be modified.

During the energy audit KEMA will perform typical residential energy audit tasks such as customer education, gas appliance checklist, blower door test, installation of common energy saving measures or implementation of no-cost energy saving system modifications, RECAP analysis of structures, and delivery of audit summary findings. If water or space heat equipment is found to be unsafe during the audit, a Service Order will be submitted to NorthWestern Energy and if the unit is found unsafe by the NorthWestern Energy service staff, it will be condemned. The customers must then use their own money to fix or replace the equipment.

Where applicable, the following items will be installed or systems modified by KEMA personnel during the home audit process with no limit as to quantity of materials or number of systems modified:

- Weather-stripping for exterior swing-type doors
- Door sweeps for exterior swing-type doors
- Foam gap sealant or caulk for exterior walls, doors and windows
- Window plastic for single pane windows
- Electrical outlet and switch plate cover gaskets for exterior walls (may be left with customer if time does not allow installation)
- Low-flow kitchen sink aerators
- Low-flow bathroom sink aerators
- Low-flow shower heads
- Programmable thermostats to replace existing thermostats
- CFLs (screw-in type) in locations with at least 3 hours usage per day
- Hot water tank insulation wrap and 10' of hot water tank pipe insulation (where accessible)
- System adjustments recommended by the home auditor such as reduction of temperature on hot water heater, unplugging unused appliances, vacuuming refrigerator coils, etc.