

## OSCEOLA ENERGY INITIATIVE

Osceola County and the City of St. Cloud have been awarded \$2,362,710.00 of grant funds from the State. The Osceola Energy Initiative (OEI) program was developed to implement the grant. Additional partners to the grant include local utility companies: Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC), Kissimmee Utility Authority (KUA), and Progress Energy; Workforce Central Florida (WCF); The University of Florida Program for Resource Efficient Communities (UF PREC); local and national financing entities and others. Please contact OEI to be a part of our program ([oei@osceola.org](mailto:oei@osceola.org)).

The OEI will implement an Energy Efficient Finance Program, which will provide residents access to low interest loans to facilitate energy efficient upgrades. The loans will be based upon upgrade “packages” designed to give the individual the greatest amount of savings for the least amount of investment. This will cause little to no net increase in their out of pocket spending.

Through our partnership with the UF PREC, we are working to provide discounts on energy efficient products and provide trainings for both Contractors and homeowners for the residents and businesses of Osceola County. Additionally, Home Energy Ratings System (HERS) audits will be available, at no cost, to participants of the OEI program. The audits will be performed by State Certified Building Energy Raters. Currently we are hoping to have a set of HERS audit equipment available for use by participating contractors and their trainees who graduate from our training program.

Participating contractors will be selected based on interest and willingness to take on a trainee, through our energy efficiency training program. Through a partnership with WCF and Technical Education Center Osceola (TECO), we will be training a minimum of 30, up to 40, individuals to perform energy efficient upgrades on buildings throughout the County. This is a 16 week training course, with the first four weeks as classroom and the last 12 weeks as on the job training. The qualified persons will be placed in jobs with local contractors to get this experience. The classroom training is being funded by WCF, and the on the job experience is being funded by OEI at no cost to the trainee or employer. OEI is currently seeking contractors interested in adding trained personnel to their workforce and assist with the facilitation of this program. If you are a contractor or currently seeking employment contact OEI to be a part of this program.

Please contact OEI to take part in any of the upcoming initiatives below:

- Energy Efficiency in Building Construction – Training course for Certified Contractors seeking continuing education training;
- Save Money on Your Electric Bill – Required 3-hour course to participate in the Energy Efficient Finance Program and have access to low interest loans to facilitate energy efficient upgrades; and
- HERS audits – Contact OEI to have an energy rating completed on your building by a State Certified Building Energy Rater; performed on a continuous basis.

Other projects within the grant include; creating a County-wide web-based interface that will be available to residents for access to a comparative look at their energy use; The City of St. Cloud City Hall will be retrofitted with a 58kW rooftop solar system including a real-time interactive monitoring kiosk to be installed within the City Hall lobby for education purposes of the energy savings, which will be available to all residents of Osceola County; and a traffic light synchronization project to include the re-timing of traffic signals for approximately 44 lane miles on two major corridors in the County: John Young Parkway and Osceola Parkway.

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