



Expanding Low Income Energy Efficiency Could Deliver over \$500 million in Benefits to Maryland

Highland Park, NJ – Expansion of the existing Maryland low-income energy efficiency program could generate over \$500 million in benefit for the State, according to a new study conducted by Gabel Associates. The existing low-income energy efficiency program is offered by the [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development](#) (DHCD). The current DHCD program provides repairs and energy efficiency upgrades to residential customers in Maryland at no cost. The upgrades provide customers with immediate financial relief in the form of bill savings, as well as other benefits including improved indoor air quality, comfort, and safety enhancements.

The Gabel Associates study shows that expanding the current low-income energy efficiency program would produce significant benefits, including:

- More than \$165 million in direct bill savings to customers participating in programs, which provides immediate direct financial relief to low-income customers;
- Stimulate economic growth in the state, increasing Maryland's GDP by more than \$150 million and creating over 2,600 jobs;
- \$1.35 in benefits for every dollar spent as a result of lower wholesale prices for energy, savings from reduced need to build new power plants and power lines, reduced air pollution, and reduced need for electricity production;
- Total lifetime energy savings of more than 2.2 million megawatt-hours, equivalent to the electricity used by 185,000 residential customers for one year;
- Reduced emissions by over 1.4 million tons of carbon dioxide, 812 tons of sulfur dioxide, 917 tons of nitrogen oxides, and 71 tons of particular matter.

“Our study shows that expanding the low-income energy efficiency programs would provide substantial benefits to program participants and other electric customers in the State of Maryland,” said Brendon Baatz, study co-author and Vice President at Gabel Associates. “While the State currently has a program in place to deliver savings to low-income residents, an expansion of the program would be cost effective, beneficial for participants, and advantageous to the State at large.”

An expansion of the low-income energy efficiency program is a critical tool to help low-income customers save money on bill during recovery from COVID-19, as well as stimulating economic development in Maryland.

The full study can be viewed at:

<http://gabelassociates.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Maryland-Low-Income-EE-Benefits-Report-11.27.21.pdf>

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