



# **First Year Program Summary Report to Council 1-23-2012**

# Participation



## Program Participation, Jan 2011 – Jan 2012

**% of all UP  
Households**

- 198 households enrolled in STEP-UP 22%
- 145 households completed or scheduled a whole-home energy assessment 16%
- 94 households implemented or schedule energy efficiency improvements 10%

# Total Annual Program Savings



- Electricity: 61,250 kWh
- Natural Gas: 7,514 Therms
- Fuel Oil: 1,427 Gallons
- Compost diverted from landfill: 2.1 tons
- Reduction in greenhouse gases: 100 tons

Sources: BEACON modeled savings from Home Performance with ENERGY STAR audits  
GHG calculation: [http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_assumptions.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_assumptions.html)

# Approximate Saving Equivalents STEP UP



100 tons of GHGs =

- The entire annual energy consumption of 8 local homes
- The energy needed to drive an average passenger vehicle around the earth 8 times (200,000 miles)
- The energy in 3,780 propane barbeque tanks
- The energy contained in 1.2 tanker trucks of gasoline, or half a railcar of coal

GHG calculation: [http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_assumptions.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_assumptions.html)

# Household Averages



- Energy reduction: 15% per year
- Utility bill reduction: \$375 per year
- Total invoice for audit & improvements: \$3,860
- Rebates\* received: \$2,335
- Average rebate as a percentage of invoice: 60%
- Net out of pocket costs for audit & improvements: \$1,530
- Simple payback period: 4.1 years
- Simple return on investment: 25%

Source: STEP-UP program records

\*Rebates from STEP-UP, Maryland Energy Administration and Pepco. Does not include potential Federal Tax Credit

# Job Creation



- Total billable hours: 6,000
- *Direct* full-time jobs created: 3.5
- Additional *indirect*\* FT jobs created: 5.5
- Participating home assessment firms: 21
- Participating efficiency contractors: 14
- Participating equipment supply firms: 5

Source: STEP-UP program records

\*Heidi Garrett-Peltier, *Employment Estimates for Energy Efficiency Retrofits*, June 2011

# Local Economic Stimulus



- Grant expenditure to date: \$285,000
- Total household investment: \$307,000
- Leveraged rebates/incentives: \$112,000
- Ratio of grant funds / investment: 1:2.5

Source: STEP-UP program records

# Compost Pilot



- Participating STEP-UP households: 50
- Median weight of food waste per household per week: 10 lbs
- Diversion of waste from landfill: 2.1 tons
- Landfill cost savings to University Park: \$56/ton
- Reported incidents of rats or vermin: 0

Source: STEP-UP program records

# STEP-UP Participant Feedback



- 94% rank financial incentives as important in their decision to participate in STEP-UP
- 90% rank the Energy Coach as important in their decision to participate in STEP-UP
- 94% of participants have been in contact with the STEP-UP Energy Coach at least twice
- 95% rate their experience with the STEP-UP Energy Coach as positive

Source: STEP-UP program records

# Year 2 Priorities



- Continue to deliver STEP-UP to University Park
- Complete the missing STEP-UP elements
  - Financing
  - Low income
  - Solar project
- Expand STEP-UP to neighboring communities
- Council recommendations post compost pilot
- Develop tool kit for other small towns
- Consider transportation and street lighting