

HOME DECOR & MORE



EnergyAssist helps Nova Scotians to Save Money and Energy

By Anna Weinstein

Nova Scotians can now find free programs that reduce home energy costs. Energy Nova Scotia Foundation has introduced an easy and confidential new resource hub, www.EnergyAssist.ca.

Several organizations throughout the province offer programs that help homeowners and renters alike improve their energy efficiency or reduce their energy bills, but it can be hard to find them and to figure out whether you are eligible to apply.

EnergyAssist is a user-friendly and confidential online tool that guides users through a few very simple questions - geographic region,

household income, number of residents, and type of home - to provide links to relevant programs for which the user may qualify.

Programs are available to both homeowners and renters, and all programs identified through EnergyAssist are free of charge (with the exception of the in-store rebate offered by Efficiency Nova Scotia, which is a reduction in the retail price of energy efficiency products).

"Having to go to multiple websites from different organizations to try to determine what help might be available is a barrier, and we hope that putting everything in a single easy-to-use place will make it

faster and easier for people to get the support they need," says Scott Skinner, Executive Director of Clean Foundation. "Each program has different requirements, but finding the ones that you qualify for can really pay off."

EnergyAssist initially arose as a way to help people connect to HomeWarming, an initiative supported by Nova Scotia Power and the Province of Nova Scotia which helps Nova Scotian homeowners living on lower incomes save money on heating and energy through free efficiency upgrades. Clean Foundation administers the program in partnership with Efficiency

Nova Scotia, and through that work Clean identified the need for a simple tool to help people find and navigate the different support options available to them.

We are proud to make this available beyond the bounds of any single organization or program, bringing in other programs from additional partners including the Salvation Army's Good Neighbour Fund, provincial government programs, and initiatives from Efficiency Nova Scotia.

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Nova Scotia to Play Leadership Role

By Maurice Rees

On May 8th Premier Stephen McNeil proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent in Nova Scotia. The United Nations declared 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent to strengthen global co-operation in support of people of African descent so they can enjoy social, cultural, political and civil rights for full inclusion in all aspects of society. The theme is recognition, justice and development.

"I am proud to stand here today, as the minister representing African Nova Scotians, to say we stand committed to responding to the United Nations' call to work towards ensuring the full inclusion of people of African descent," said Tony Ince, Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs. "As the birthplace of African Canadian heritage, Nova Scotia should play a leadership role in bringing people together to ensure all Nova Scotians are treated with dignity and respect while having equitable access to the opportunities our province has to offer."

The Government of Nova Scotia, led by the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs, is developing an action plan for the decade to further advance government's work addressing systemic racism and discrimination. The action plan will be launched later this year. The 2018-19 provincial budget committed an additional \$710,000 to African Nova Scotia Affairs to help the office expand its important work support and to support the decade action plan.

A significant portion of the new funding - \$500,000 - will be spent directly in communities on programming and services. The fund-

ing will also be used to create two new Community Outreach positions.

To learn more about the decade visit <http://www.un.org/en/events/africananddescenddecade/>



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