

## Homeowners in the District of Shelburne can now apply for affordable financing for efficiency and cleaner energy upgrades

If you live in the District of Shelburne, you can retrofit your home and finance it over a ten-year period. The **Clean Energy Financing** program will do the analysis to make sure you *save as much or even more* in energy and heating expenses than the cost of the retrofits. The investment pays for itself.

This is the second year of Clean Energy Financing, which is offered by the District of Shelburne along with the Town of Bridgewater and the Districts of Digby and Lunenburg. The program is managed by Clean Foundation. Information and applications can be found at [www.CleanEnergyFinancing.ca](http://www.CleanEnergyFinancing.ca)

Upgrades can include insulation, energy efficient windows and doors, as well as solutions such as high efficiency heat pumps, heat recovery systems and solar panels. A home energy assessment determines what upgrades are best for the home and eligible for the program.

“We’d been thinking about purchasing a heat pump to reduce our electricity costs. But it’s not easy to come up with a few thousand dollars all at once,” says Marilyn Johnston. She and her husband Doug wanted to invest in energy efficiency to make their Municipality of Shelburne bungalow warmer – and to save money in the long run – but the large upfront costs of the retrofits posed a challenge.

They were happy to hear about Clean Energy Financing. “The program pays for the upfront bills through a low-interest loan, and the cost of the upgrades will be put on the homeowners’ tax bill and paid over a ten-year period,” says Penny Smith, Warden of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne.

The municipalities are offering a low lending rate of just 4% for the upgrades. Residents will benefit from the Clean Energy Financing program by eliminating the large upfront cost of upgrades, and by spreading the payments over a period of 10 years. The financing is repayable through charges attached to the property – that’s why this type of program is known as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. It’s a concept that’s becoming very popular in the U.S. and Europe. Nova Scotia is a leader in PACE financing in Canada.

The financing is available on a first-come-first-served basis during 2017.

Homeowners can go to [www.CleanEnergyFinancing.ca](http://www.CleanEnergyFinancing.ca) to get more information and an application form, or by calling toll-free to 1-844-727-7818.