

HOME

Reinvesting in the American Dream: Make Tax Credits Work for You

NewsUSA

(NU) - A place to call home is a value deeply rooted in American culture. Despite challenging economic times, many homeowners are reinvesting in the American dream by making improvements to their homes. Many smart investments have come to light, which can help homeowners save money on their utility bills while saving money on next year's tax return.

To simplify taking advantage of the latest tax credits, CertainTeed Corporation has launched a new online resource, www.certainteed.com/energytaxcredit. The site offers an easy-to-understand explanation of the tax credit rebates available to homeowners and how they can reduce the amount of taxes they pay next year by up to \$1,500.

Drawing from more than 100 years of experience, CertainTeed offers the following tips and advice to capitalize on energy-saving products and resources including:

- Conduct a home energy audit. An auditor can pinpoint areas where your home loses energy and can suggest ways to conserve heating fuel, hot water and electricity. Visit www.energystar.gov to locate an auditor in your area.

- Stay on top of rising energy costs. Plan ahead and don't get blind-sided by high utility bills. Organizations like the Alliance to Save Energy, www.ase.org, offer tools that project upcoming energy costs in your state.

- Maximize energy efficiency with solar reflective roofing. Installing affordable, cool roofing products, such as Landmark Solaris, can help homeowners reduce energy costs while giving a boost to their home's curb appeal. Thanks to new cool roofing tech-



Using energy-efficient products will not only help you save money on energy bills, but also earn tax credits.

nology, solar reflective roofing products are now available in rich, vibrant colors.

- Choose the right insulation for the right area of your home. For example, blow-in insulation, such as InsulSafe SP Premium Blowing Wool, and True Comfort provide uniform coverage that won't settle and is perfect for attic areas. Fiberglass batt insulation is a popular option for walls and in below-grade areas, such as unfinished basements.

- Consider the "big picture." Proper home insulation saves energy. This reduces fossil fuel consumption, resulting in less pollution. Considering the average home emits more than twice as much carbon dioxide – the principle greenhouse gas – as the average car, home insulation can go a long way in reducing your environmental impact. Homeowners should also be aware of the recommended R-value in their area. To determine the right R-value for an area, visit the U.S. Department of Energy Web site at www.doe.gov.

For more information or to find a qualified contractor, visit certainteed.com/energytaxcredit.