

**Volume 263 December 6, 2011**

### Last Call for Energy Efficiency Homeowner Tax Credits

The Alliance to Save Energy urges American consumers to give themselves the gift of energy efficiency this holiday season - and reap the benefits when they file their 2011 federal tax returns - by taking advantage of tax credits for energy efficiency home improvements. The tax credits of up to \$500 are set to expire on December 31, and Congress may not renew them for 2012.

"The outlook for renewal of federal energy efficiency tax incentives is uncertain at best," stated Alliance President Kateri Callahan, "so we encourage homeowners to complete those upgrades before the ball drops in Times Square at midnight on New Year's Eve.

"Making efficiency improvements this year will lower home energy bills and improve home comfort for years to come, while also reducing 2011 federal income tax bills," Callahan added. "Energy efficiency is truly the gift that keeps on giving!"

The specific home improvements that qualify for tax credits fall into a number of categories:

Exterior windows, skylights and storm windows.  
Insulation, exterior doors, roofs, storm doors and products to seal air leaks such as caulking, weather stripping and foam sealants.

Highly-efficient heating and cooling equipment, including central air conditioners, heat pumps, furnaces, boilers, water heaters and biomass (e.g. corn) stoves.

Each product category also must meet specific energy efficiency requirements, which are spelled out on the Alliance's tax credits web page.

Percentage and/or dollar limits on particular energy-efficient upgrades include:

10% of the cost of insulation and sealing materials, exterior doors and roofs.

10% of the cost, up to \$200, of exterior windows or skylights.

Up to \$300 for electric heat pump water heaters, electric heat pumps, central air conditioners, biomass stoves and natural gas, propane or oil water heaters.

Up to \$50 for advanced main circulating fans.

Up to \$150 for natural gas, propane or oil furnace or hot water boilers.

### Electricity Pricing Areas - Dec 6, 2011

#### December

On-Peak	Per kWh
<b>Cinergy</b>	<b>\$.03958</b>
<b>PJM West</b>	<b>\$.05091</b>

### ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
<b>Nov1-Nov 30, 2010</b>	<b>\$.02778</b>
<b>Dec 1 - Dec 31</b>	<b>\$.03545</b>
<b>Jan 1 -Jan 31, 2011</b>	<b>\$.03871</b>
<b>Feb 1 - Feb 28</b>	<b>\$.03581</b>
<b>March 1- Mar 31</b>	<b>\$.03668</b>
<b>April 1 - April 30</b>	<b>\$.03448</b>
<b>May1- May 31</b>	<b>\$.03954</b>
<b>June 1 - June 30</b>	<b>\$.03851</b>
<b>July 1 thru July 31</b>	<b>\$.05170</b>
<b>Aug 1 - Aug 31</b>	<b>\$.04064</b>
<b>Sep 1 - Sep 30</b>	<b>\$.03058</b>
<b>Oct 1- Oct31</b>	<b>\$.02968</b>
<b>Nov 1- Nov 30</b>	<b>\$.02816</b>

**Weather Today:** Cloudy skies. A few flurries are possible. Temps nearly steady in the mid to upper 30s. Winds N at 15 to 25 mph. **Tonight:** Partly cloudy skies. Low 29F. Winds W at 10 to 15 mph. **Tomorrow:** Partly cloudy. High 36F. Winds WSW at 15 to 25 mph. **Tomorrow night:** A few clouds overnight. Low 27F. Winds W at 10 to 20 mph. **Thursday:** Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 30s and lows in the upper 20s. **Friday:** A few snow showers. Highs in the upper 20s and lows in the low 20s. **Saturday:** Sunny. Highs in the low 30s with temperatures nearly steady overnight.

