

Dear Neighbors,

I am writing to announce the July launch of an exciting new program being offered for the coming year in Riverdale Park that will help turn our community into a model of energy efficiency for the future.

The program is called the *Small Town Energy Program* (STEP). The program is also being offered in College Heights Estates, Hyattsville and University Park, where it was piloted last year. STEP is funded by a grant from the US Department of Energy. Participation in STEP is voluntary.

The goal of STEP is to make it easy and affordable for Riverdale Park residents to improve our homes with respect to:

- **comfort**, with fewer drafts and hot/cold rooms;
- **savings**, with lower utility bills and huge rebates for home energy improvements;
- **value**, because an energy-upgraded home is worth more to buyers; and
- **health**, as STEP helps identify mold, moisture, CO leaks and home air quality issues.

One of the most innovative benefits of STEP is free support from Energy Coach Suzanne Parmet. Suzanne makes participation in STEP easy and manageable. She is there to answer our questions, work with us as we complete each step of the program, and ensure that we receive every possible financial incentive.

STEP incentives include limited-time rebates that range from **\$400 - \$4,300**. These rebates can pay for more than half of home energy improvements! STEP has also arranged below-market financing rates for energy improvements through a special agreement with Sandy Spring Bank.

Interested Riverdale Park residents are urged to learn more at <http://www.smalltownenergy.org>, or to simply contact Suzanne Parmet at energycoach@smalltownenergy.org or at 240-695-3991.

This summer, look for the STEP Summer Associates coming to Riverdale Park with more information about the program, and be sure to check out their booth at the Farmers Market!