

'Green House Calls' Are Available Again This Summer

This summer even more Livermore residents will be able to "go green" by taking advantage of the California Youth Energy Services (CYES) program.

CYES, a program of the non-profit organization Rising Sun Energy Center, is a Bay Area summer youth employment and free energy efficiency retrofit program. Each summer Rising Sun trains Bay Area youth (15-22) and employs them to serve their communities with free Green House Calls. After a successful first summer in Livermore last year, CYES has been invited back to keep greening the City for another year. CYES staffs its Livermore office with professionally trained local youth, creating a "green-collar job" career track.

At each Green House Call, the youth Energy Specialists educate the resident about energy saving behaviors, install free equipment that saves energy and water, and provide personalized recommendations for further savings in their home. The free service includes measurement of household water use and installation of showerheads and faucet aerators, which conserve wa-

ter and energy while maintaining high water pressure. Energy Specialists provide free efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in exchange for old incandescent bulbs, and can offer a clothesline or powerstrip to reduce electricity bills. The youth teams also assess the attic for sufficient insulation and refer clients to Rising Sun's attic subsidy program which can offer over 50% off attic insulation for qualifying homes. In addition, residents receive a personalized energy and water conservation plan.

Not only does CYES help residents save energy and money, working for CYES also opens young people's eyes to energy conservation and opportunities in the green economy.

Myrella Morales is one example. "CYES has made me more aware of how I was using resources every day," she explains. "It has also opened me up to all these options and all these new jobs that I didn't even know were out there. I'm excited about green jobs because it's starting to become a national thing. These jobs cannot be outsourced; they have to be done here, and they have to be done, period, because we are

running out of resources. A greener life is going to be a more united life. I think that's something that this nation needs."

Overall, the program provides jobs for youth, offers a free money-saving service to the community, and cuts pollution and global warming by saving energy.

The CYES 2010 program offered its first Livermore Green House Calls on July 7. The program runs through August 13. The program's reach is wider than Livermore. Any Alameda, Contra Costa and Marin County resident can schedule a free Green House Call by calling (925) 727-7571 (for Livermore) or (510) 665-1501 ext 10 (for other areas) checking out the website at www.risingsunenergy.org/content/greencall.html, visiting the Rising Sun Energy Center head office at 1900 Addison St. Ste. 100 Berkeley, CA 94704.

California consumers are not obligated to purchase any full fee service or other service not funded by this program. This program is funded by California utility ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).