

# Environmental Advisory Council Newsletter

Upper Moreland Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania • Fall 2009

Dear Community Member,

The Upper Moreland Township Board of Commissioners formed the Township's first Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) in January 2009. Charged with advising the Board of Commissioners on areas of environmental importance to the community, the members of the EAC would like to introduce to you the first of what will be many informative newsletters to make you aware of the Township's environmental news and ways in which each resident can help to improve Upper Moreland's aesthetics and sustainability. The EAC would like to invite you to participate as we work to improve our Township. Please contact the EAC with any comments or suggestions at the EAC's email address: [umeac@uppermoreland.org](mailto:umeac@uppermoreland.org). We also invite you to attend our monthly meetings scheduled on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM. Meetings are held at the Upper Moreland Township Building located at 117 Park Avenue, Willow Grove. We look forward to seeing you!

Yours in service,  
The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

## Going Green Saves \$\$\$

In the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Stimulus Bill), there are various incentives for residential homeowners to increase their home's energy efficiency. The impact of which is both environmentally and financially beneficial. Under the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, consumers may qualify for 30% of the cost up to \$1500 in tax credits for home improvements. Further information on these tax credits can be found at [www.energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm](http://www.energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm). Improvements that qualify include the following (applies to existing homes only):

- Windows and doors
- Insulation
- HVAC
- Water heaters
- Roofing
- Biomass stoves

In addition, consumers may possibly qualify for tax credits up to 30% of the cost with no upper limit for the following (existing homes and new construction):

- Solar panels
- Geothermal heat pumps
- Solar water heaters
- Fuel cells

In order to determine what products qualify and the necessary procedure for claiming the tax credits, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

In addition to these federal programs, the State of Pennsylvania also offers various incentives for energy efficiency. The Sunshine Program provides \$100 million in grants to homeowners and small businesses who install solar energy systems. To find out more information and how to obtain these and other incentives visit: [www.depweb.state.pa.us/energ independent/](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/energ independent/).

We value your opinion! Please take a moment and fill out our brief survey. Your responses can be emailed to [umeac@uppermoreland.org](mailto:umeac@uppermoreland.org) or mailed to 117 Park Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090 Attention: EAC.  
Thank you!

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## Survey

### **Are you aware Upper Moreland Township currently offers free compost?**

- Yes and I use the compost
- Yes but I don't use the compost
- No but I would like to use the compost
- No and I would not use the compost

### **Currently, you must pick-up your own compost from the Township. However, would you be more likely to use the compost if it was delivered to your residence/business for a minimal fee?**

- Yes
- No

### **In your opinion, what environmental issues facing Upper Moreland Township are most important?**

- Storm water management
- Open space preservation
- Alternative energy sources
- Energy conservation
- Recycling

\* Your responses can be emailed to [umeac@uppermoreland.org](mailto:umeac@uppermoreland.org) or mailed to 117 Park Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090 Attn: EAC. We appreciate your time!