



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **PALM DESERT ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM APPROVED**

**PALM DESERT, CA** – In a historic first for California, the Palm Desert City Council this week unanimously voted to create the City's new Energy Independence Program. The program, made possible by the recent passage of Assembly Bill 811, offers City financing to encourage local homeowners and business owners to invest in solar panels, high efficiency air conditioning and heating systems, and other permanent energy efficiency improvements.

The Energy Independence Program makes these energy saving measures more affordable by allowing the City to loan money to residents and businesses at a seven percent interest rate without the credit checks or appraisals associated with home equity and other types of personal loans. Borrowers can repay the loans over a period of up to 20 years as part of their property taxes. If the property is sold, the improvements and the outstanding loan balance can be transferred to the new owner.

The Energy Independence Program's goal is to stimulate investment in energy efficiency and conservation, thereby decreasing energy demand, boosting power generation from renewable sources, and reducing energy costs.

This new program complements Palm Desert's Set To Save program, in which the City has partnered with Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, and the Energy Coalition, to offer rebates and incentives to home and business owners who invest in energy efficiency improvements. It will also help the City meet its goal of reducing Palm Desert's energy consumption and demand by 30 percent over five years.

Nearly 300 residents and businesses have already added their names to an interest list for the Energy Independence Program. People who want to learn more about this new way to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient can visit [www.cityofpalmdesert.org](http://www.cityofpalmdesert.org) or call the Palm Desert Office of Energy Management at 760-837-0287.

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