



# EcoWise



Your Environmental Resource

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## Quantity Quotes - Your Energy Procurements Are Now Faster, Easier and Cost Effective

Gone are the days of piles of paperwork and lengthy phone conversations - Public and Indian Housing (PIH) has just made it easier for Housing Agencies to purchase ENERGY STAR products. If you want to start saving time and money, all you need is access to the internet.

QuantityQuotes.net is a website that the Department of Energy created to make it easier for private and public sector customers to find available ENERGY STAR products, make contact with vendors, and negotiate discounted prices. Available products include light bulbs, light fixtures, clothes washers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, refrigerators and air conditioners. Soon this list will also include commercial windows and HVACs systems.

There are many benefits to using QuantityQuotes.net. There is no limit to the number of manufacturers and suppliers that participate, which ensures competitive quotes. Within a few days of submitting a product request, you start to receive quotes. With a minimum of three quotes required, you may fulfill your procurement requirements with a few clicks of the mouse.

ENERGY STAR products have a wide variety of product specifications and QuantityQuotes.net allows you to request exactly what you need for your development. For example, you can specify the electrical requirements and maximum dimensions of a clothes washer; the lumen output for a light bulb, or the style, finish and wattage of a light fixture.

Purchasing products in bulk can be a hassle when you are at the mercy of a vendor's delivery schedule. QuantityQuotes.net, however, allows you to receive deliveries when you are ready. You can even request that a vendor phase product delivery over a period of time and at multiple locations.

In addition to ease of procurement, ENERGY STAR products are also a wise investment. The payback period for most products is less than five years. The savings don't stop there - ENERGY STAR products are more reliable and durable than their less efficient counterparts and require less maintenance. They also improve the affordability and marketability of a property. ENERGY STAR products are a great idea for your development, and with QuantityQuotes.net, purchasing them has never been easier.

Housing Agencies are authorized to use the program for most procurement purchasing above \$2000 and below \$100,000 with a minimum of three quotes. If QuantityQuotes provides less than three quotes, then agencies must supplement the difference with additional quotes. PIH has determined that this procurement method is in compliance with 24 CFR 85.36 and the Procurement Handbook. Housing Agencies are required to stay within their state's procurement limits if they are less than the federal limit of \$100,000.

### QuantityQuotes.net

#### How it Works

- 1 Submit purchase request to suppliers
- 2 Interested suppliers respond through website
- 3 Follow up with suppliers to arrange purchase

## This Issue

- Quantity Quotes
- Successful Energy Conservation
- Energy Watch
- Events
- Regional Spotlight
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- Maintenance Corner



**Energy Watch Survey Coming Soon!**

Be on the lookout for a September survey because we want YOU to tell us about your experiences with ENERGY STAR and the energy audit process.

## Events

### [Building Science Fundamentals](#)

July 17-18 - Philadelphia, PA

### [NAHRO 2007 Summer Conference](#)

July 20-22 - Chicago, IL

### [NAHRO EPC Trainings](#)

July 26-27 - Hilton Head, NC  
August 30-31 - San Antonio, TX

### [Energy 2007 Workshop](#)

August 5-8 - New Orleans, LA

### [Energy Webcast](#)

September 18 - New Construction Techniques

# Successful Energy Conservation - It's All About the Residents

If you are trying to save money and conserve energy, look no further than your residents. Resident education programs that involve residents in the planning, construction, and maintenance of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) can help you achieve projected savings. These programs also inform residents of the financial benefits that can be realized through energy efficiency.

According to an Energy Service Company industry participant, group and one-on-one training can ensure that residents know how their bills will be reduced and how they should maintain ECMs. At the Tampa Housing Authority, they do just that. The agency provides one-on-one training and counseling to residents who experience high utility bills or want to lower their individual housing costs. Tampa has also encouraged resident involvement – residents of the 17 public housing communities play an active role in the implementation of ECMs. They share energy conservation approaches and work collaboratively to achieve savings.

**“Resident education is critical to the success of Energy Conservation Measures.”**

*- James Bean  
Construction Manager,  
The Housing Authority of  
the City of Austin*

While the focus of ECMs is to generate substantial dollar savings for both the HA and the residents, forward-thinking HAs share ECM job opportunities with the residents. Residents living in Tampa’s communities are employed to collect housing monitoring data as well as plan and execute the installation of energy efficient appliances. While bringing economic benefits to residents, these activities also provide residents with a sense of community involvement, which leads to greater incentives to participate in and maintain ECMs in the long term.

Getting residents to participate can be easy if you provide the right incentives. At meetings held by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin, residents became aware of the financial savings and benefits brought about by conservation, as well as the job opportunities that might be available to them through the initiatives. Austin utilizes resident education as part of its goal of reducing the overall cost of utilities by 20-40%.

The implementation of ECMs has evolved into much more than economic and environmental savings for a community. It has also become a great opportunity for HAs to encourage economic independence for their residents.

### Tips for Residents

## Maintenance Corner

### Be Wise - Top Tips for Conserving Energy

Saving energy and reducing costs can be painless. You can conserve energy and save money by trying the following tips.

#### Tips for Conserving Electricity:

- Reduce the frequency and the amount of time that the refrigerator is open
- For summer cool, keep your thermostat at the highest comfortable setting for cooling your home
- Turn your lights off when you leave a room
- Use your curtains to keep cool by closing them during the day
- Consider using a microwave for cooking instead of the oven or stove

#### Tips for Conserving Water:

- Turn the water off when brushing your teeth or shaving
- Fill the sink with water for rinsing when washing dishes by hand
- Scrape food off dishes into the garbage before washing them
- Take a 7-minute shower or less - this uses less hot water than a bath
- Teach your children to turn the faucets off tightly after each use

Email us with your Maintenance Corner questions!

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## Regional Spotlight - Resident Education Programs

[Wilmington, NC](#) - Resident Councils have financed school supplies and scholarships with \$37,000 earned through the Wilmington Housing Authority’s energy incentive program.

[El Paso, TX](#) - The Housing Authority of El Paso organized energy conservation seminars and empowered residents to take charge of their energy bills.

## Resources

[QuantityQuotes.net](#)

A direct link to the Quantity Quotes website

[Overview](#)

ENERGY STAR Quantity Quotes

[ENERGY STAR Products](#)

A comprehensive list of Energy Star qualified products

[ENERGY STAR’s Energy Conservation Tips](#)

Top Ten Tips for Renters

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This monthly e-mail update is brought to you by HUD’s Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse (PHECC) featuring news and resources to help agencies manage energy and water costs.