



## Perris News

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### Green Light Savings Program Helps Perris Residents

Clarence McCarter and his wife moved into Perris 25 years ago and love the home near City Hall they have lived in for the past quarter century.

But the house needs new sinks and showerheads. The sprinkler system has seen better days. The hot-water heater recently broke.

McCarter turned to the City of Perris and its new "[Green Light Savings Program](#)" to bring about the needed upgrades to the home. He became the first Perris resident to apply for a grant under the program that was unveiled a month ago.

"This is all original equipment," McCarter said as he walked through the residence. "It needs to be changed. I really like this area and I am going anywhere. I think it's great that the City is helping people fix up their homes. Times are tough now and for this City to step up with a helping hand is great. It can't get any better."

The Green Light Savings Program makes available up to \$5,000 in grants for homeowners who install a variety of energy-saving devices. Those include low-flow showerheads and toilets, irrigation controllers, compact fluorescent light bulbs, water heaters, insulation and weatherization. The grants do not have to be repaid. Perris officials say the program marks another in their ongoing efforts to help reduce residential utility bills and save precious resources like water, electricity and natural gas.

McCarter and inspector Rudy Gomez walked through the residence to check out which appliances would qualify under the Green Light Savings Program. They inspected the water heater, kitchen and bathroom sink, ceiling fan, shower and sprinklers. Gomez said the City plans to move quickly to begin repairs.

"It's a very good program and people should take advantage of it," Gomez said.

He added that Perris has received 23 inquiries about the grant program. McCarter said he has already told neighbors to take advantage of the savings initiative, the latest in a series of creative money saving and energy efficient programs approved by the City Council.

Perris has earned state accolades for installing solar panels throughout its City Hall Campus, which is credited with cutting the city's electrical consumption 20 percent—enough to power 100 homes for a year and remove 960,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions annually. That's like taking 90 cars off the road. The City won the prestigious Helen Putnam Award for that innovative solution from the League of California Cities.

Earlier this year, Perris installed a demonstration garden at City Hall that will save hundreds of thousands of gallons of water annually. The City also is committed to planting hundreds of trees to provide shade and reduce its carbon footprint.

Perris officials learned in September that the City's Hanesbrands Inc. distribution center was named one of the largest green buildings in the world. Earlier this week, Perris Mayor Daryl Busch cut the ribbon on the first "E-85" ethanol fuel pumping center in the Inland Empire.

"The City of Perris continues its forward-thinking approach to addressing real-world needs of its residents," said City Councilman Al Landers. "I am proud to be part of a City so committed to making life better for its residents."

To qualify for the program, residents must be home owners and meet certain income requirements. To learn more about the Green Light Savings Program, call 888-943-6101 or visit [www.cityofperris.org](http://www.cityofperris.org)



Inspector Rudy Gomez and Clarence McCarter discuss the City's Green Light for Savings Program.



Gomez checks out a broken water heater.



Gomez and McCarter inspect the sprinkler system, which could be replaced with grant funding from the Green Light for Savings Program.