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LA Canada

Program offers free energy assessments

By Sara Cardine, sara.cardine@latimes.com

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From now through September, La Cañada residents are eligible for free home-energy assessments through CivicSpark, an AmeriCorps program offered through the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. advertisement

Representatives from the program came Tuesday to share with City Council members details of the new Energy Assessment for Your Home (EASY) evaluations being offered through the program.

Funded by the California Public Utilities Commission and made possible through the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' Energy Wise Partnership, CivicSpark pairs recent college graduates with local government agencies to enhance sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mikaela Vournas, a 2014 California Polytechnic State University graduate, spoke more about the assessments.

“The main goal of the EASY program is to provide customized and relevant information on ways of reducing residents' energy usage and ways to save money on their energy bills,” Vournas said.

Volunteers will help residents calculate their home energy score, Vournas explained. After that, homeowners get a checklist of customized recommendations for conservation tips and potential retrofits to reduce usage.

“We're also trying to kind of demystify the process of applying for relevant rebates and financing options that can help them get these projects done,” Vournas said.

Residents can sign up by calling the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments at (626) 457-1800, or by emailing easy.civicspark@gmail.com.