



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## News from: Oakland Public Works

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### New Financing Available to Oakland Residents for Energy & Water Upgrades

**Oakland, CA** – It just got easier for Oakland homeowners to tackle rising energy costs and water scarcity while helping to grow local jobs. Homeowners throughout Alameda County now have access to an innovative new type of financing through CaliforniaFIRST, to help them afford home energy and water efficiency projects along with renewable energy investments.

CaliforniaFIRST uses Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. This allows homeowners to secure upfront funding for home efficiency projects, which they repay through a 20-year special line item on their property taxes, instead of with traditional consumer credit. The program is now available through a partnership with 17 counties covering 142 cities (and growing), including Alameda.

With CaliforniaFIRST, homeowners will be able to choose a qualified contractor and install a custom-tailored clean energy project, including the purchase and installation of efficient heating and cooling systems, solar panels, low-flow toilets, home insulation, windows, roofs or electric vehicle charging stations. Through PACE, property owners' repayments are secured through a special tax assessment repaid by the homeowner through the property tax bill over a maximum of 20 years.

“PACE financing will go a long way in helping Oakland homeowners reduce their utility bills and contribute to lowering greenhouse gas emissions in the City. This will help many homeowners who want to make improvements but who could not afford it before PACE,” explained Oakland Public Works Director Brooke A. Levin.

In 2012, the City of Oakland's Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) set a goal of reducing electricity consumption by 32 percent through renewable generation, conservation and energy efficiency, by the year 2020. CaliforniaFIRST represents a big step forward in reaching that goal.

More information is available online at [CaliforniaFIRST.org](http://CaliforniaFIRST.org). Interested consumers or contractors can call (844) 589-7953 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (PST), Monday thru Friday.

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