



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator Jeff Smith's 'Green' Proposals Now Missouri Law

JEFFERSON CITY — As of Jan. 1, legislation that will help Missourians save energy, save money, and reduce home energy costs has become law.

Last year, Senator Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, sponsored several energy-saving proposals that were incorporated into Senate Bill 1181 passed by the General Assembly. Senator Smith worked with numerous organizations, state departments, and legislators in both the Senate and House to craft the energy package, which provides long-term environmental benefits for consumers and the state at relatively low costs.

The new law includes an annual sales tax holiday on energy-saving appliances, an income tax deduction for home energy audits, and state tax credits for developing “green” buildings. The legislation also enacts new minimum energy efficiency standards for all state buildings and provides more accountability of state environmental practices.

“This bi-partisan legislation is the beginning of our state heading in the right direction of environmental stewardship,” Sen. Smith said. “Not only are we providing incentives to reduce energy usage and alleviating the burden on power grids, we are also relieving the financial burden that inefficiently built homes and older appliances cost consumers.”

According to the provisions of the new law, eligible residents can get a tax deduction for having a home energy audit performed by a certified auditor. Eligible participants can receive deductions up to \$1,000 per year — or \$2,000 cumulatively — for multiple years. A list of energy auditors who are certified by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources can be found at

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/energy/residential/homeenergyaudits.htm>.

The first “Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday” enacted by the new law will be held from April 19 through April 25 each year. Missouri consumers who buy Energy Star washers and dryers, water heaters, trash compactors, dishwashers, conventional ovens, ranges, stoves, air conditioners, furnaces, refrigerators and freezers up to \$1,500 will be exempt from sales tax during the tax-free holiday.

The dates of the tax-free holiday purposely coincide with Earth Day so local communities, schools, and other can help educate consumers on cost-saving, energy-efficient practices.

“Greener homes and public buildings are becoming part of our national dialogue and these measures will bring tremendous environmental and financial benefits to our state,” Sen. Smith said.

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