



city of  
**bristol**

## News Release

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### **TDEC Presents Check to City for Energy Efficiency Program**

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Bob Martineau presented a check to the City of Bristol in the amount of \$575,000 in funding for the Energy Efficiency Assistance Program, a new grant program for low to moderate income homeowners. The program was introduced in early April.

Over 100 applications were processed by the City with approximately 85 being qualified. The program will provide assistance to homeowners with a free in-home energy evaluation and financial support to install recommended energy efficient upgrades. Program partner Bristol Tennessee Essential Services will provide the evaluation to the qualifying applicants. Each applicant will then receive a customized implementation plan that sets out specific home energy improvement measures.

“By encouraging investments in home energy savings, the Energy Efficiency Assistance Program has two long-term goals; to decrease **air** emissions associated with the generation of electricity and to increase economic opportunity of participating homeowners through reduced energy use and lower monthly utility bills,” Martineau said.

Each home owner will be eligible for up to \$15,000 in assistance until funds are depleted.

“We are so excited for our community. Being able to help our neighbors by installing basic energy saving upgrades such as windows, doors, insulation, and heating and cooling systems will bring long term benefits to families who have struggled through bad economic times. It really is a saving factor on their utility bills. This is just tremendous,” said Vice-Mayor Lea Powers.

The Energy Efficiency Assistance Program is funded by a Clean Air Act settlement agreement between King Pharmaceuticals, LLC, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The settlement agreement was negotiated through the assistance of the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, TDEC's Office of General Counsel and the Division of Air Pollution Control and entered into the federal district court in Greeneville in August 2013. TDEC committed to dedicate a portion of the settlement funds to complete homeowner energy efficiency improvement measures under the consent decree, establishing this program to be administered under a contract with the City of Bristol. Shari Brown, the city's Director of Economic and Community Development who will be overseeing the program said, "We are always looking for ways to assist the community with new programs through various funding options made available. This program was a perfect fit for everyone."

For more information contact the Office of Economic and Community Development at 423-989-5514 or [sbrown@bristoltn.org](mailto:sbrown@bristoltn.org).

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