

# TBJ - Fresno adds program for energy, water upgrades

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Fresno property owners have a new financing tool available for water and energy efficiency upgrades through the HERO program.

Already adopted by 120 California communities, HERO (Home Energy Renovation Opportunity) is a public-private partnership that allows property owners to pay back loans for energy improvements via tax bills.

As part of its brand of the Property Assessed Clean Energy program, HERO has contractors at its disposal that will see through more than 150,000 water and energy remedies, including heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) repairs, solar panel installations, cool roofs, energy-saving windows, lighting upgrades, insulation, drip irrigation and gray water systems.

The resulting electricity savings will help property owners pay for the project through an assessment on their property tax bills over five to 20 years.

Property owners can borrow up to 15 percent of the property value for the improvements and household income or credit scores are not a factor in to qualify for the loans.

"Fresno residents need cost-efficient ways to make energy and water efficiency upgrades," said City of Fresno Development and Resource Management Department Director Jennifer Clark, in a release. "The HERO financing program provides several benefits to our community by enabling property owners to improve the comfort of their homes with innovative energy solutions, while contributing to the local economy and local environmental sustainability efforts."

Since starting up in 2011, the [HERO program](#) has helped to fund more than 10,000 residential energy efficiency projects through access to more than \$165 million in financing.

So far, more than 1,300 contractors have registered for the program in California, creating more than 2,100 jobs in the state.