

You Can't Spell Sustainability Without Albany  
October Topic: Weatherization

The weather lately may seem like summer, but the autumn equinox is September 23. That's Mother Nature's way of reminding you that, despite your late-harvest tomatoes and sultry evenings enjoying music in Memorial Park, it's time to start thinking about the coming cold and rainy season. And for any financially, environmentally, and/or comfort-oriented person with a home, that planning involves weatherization.

Weatherization is the act of preparing your home for inclement weather – be it hot, cold, wet, or dry. In Albany, that may include caulking, insulating, sealing windows and doors, and possibly larger upgrades such as window replacement. The goal this season is to make your home's heating more efficient in the winter, and to make your home more comfortable.

And what better time to take action than when energy prices are on the rise and energy efficiency rebates and incentives are robust! But where to start? Energy Upgrade California is a one-stop-shop for home improvement projects that lower your energy use, conserve water and natural resources, and make your home healthier and more comfortable. Through the Energy Upgrade program, PG&E offers rebates between \$1,500 and \$4,000 for efficiency improvements of 15% to 40% and beyond. In addition, the City of Albany is offering the following rebates to its homeowners:

- \$190 for a professional “whole house energy performance” assessment only; or
- Up to \$590 for a basic or advanced “package” of upgrade measures, including any associated assessment.

All of the details can be found here:

<http://www.albanyca.org/index.aspx?page=876>

Renters should get written consent from your landlord before undertaking any weatherization activities.

For those who feel like celebrating, October 30 is National Weatherization Day. I guess all of that caulking helps keep the ghosts out on Halloween.

*Dan Lieberman's monthly column for Albany Patch is written on behalf of the City of Albany's [Sustainability Committee](#). The column is intended to provide information and resources for local residents and businesses to improve their impacts on the environment in a cost-effective manner.*