

What does this bill do?

- This bill enables local entities in Utah (such as counties, cities, towns, local districts or special service districts) to voluntarily issue bonds for the purpose of financing property assessed loans to interested residents and businesses to make voluntary energy improvements to their property, such as efficient windows, insulation, efficient HVAC systems, and/or renewable energy systems.
- This bill expands the opportunities within the existing authority of local entities to issue bonds for the purpose of public improvement projects.

If this bill passes, is participation voluntary?

- **YES!** This is an opt-in program (100% voluntary) for participants, counties, and cities. This bill simply enables counties to offer this program if supported by their constituents.

Will this bill increase taxes?

- **NO!** This bill enables, but does not require, counties to offer this program to their constituents. Furthermore, only those constituents that voluntarily choose to participate and agree to the property tax assessment will be affected. This bill will NOT require a uniform tax increase and will NOT affect homeowners or businesses not participating.

Why is this bill needed?

- This enabling legislation will help remove significant barriers to energy efficiency and renewable energy, including higher up-front costs and longer payback for certain measures.
- This legislation will empower interested municipal governments to help their citizens and businesses finance energy efficiency and renewable energy through property assessments. This proven model is simple and smart and will save Utahns money and improve property value.
- Utah municipalities are interested in offering Energy Improvement Property Assessment programs¹ that enable homeowners to make voluntary energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to their homes. This bill will enable cities and counties in Utah to offer this program to their constituents.
- This legislation is needed to put local contractors back to work and stimulate the local economy through the building retrofit market.
- This legislation expands the opportunities to save money to Utah's families.



¹ Also known as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Bonds or Financing, in other states. See <http://pacenow.org/> for more information.

What are the benefits of this legislation?

- Enabling municipal governments to adopt a property assessed loan program is an innovative way to help interested homeowners finance home energy improvements without having to incur additional personal debt or come up with the cash up-front.
- This program would stimulate the local economy, put contractors back to work, increase municipal government funds (i.e. permit fees), and create new jobs.



Highly energy efficient homes in Kennecott Land's Daybreak Development (South Jordan).

What other states have adopted this legislation?

- Similar legislation has been adopted in 17 states (NV, OH, CO, NM, NY, IL, LO, MD, OK, OR, CA, TX, VM, VI, WI) and numerous municipalities across the country are taking advantage of this innovative economic model, including Boulder County, Sonoma County, and Babylon.

How will this impact other available energy programs?

- This will not have a direct impact on other available energy programs, but will likely increase participation in available programs.
- Local entities are encouraged to partner with applicable State Agencies and the utilities to design a program which complements existing energy incentive programs.

How does the bill affect the banking community?

- Utah's banking community has been actively involved in the negotiations on this bill, and many of their concerns are addressed in the legislation, where appropriate, including:
 - A requirement for a financial advisory committee for counties that choose to offer the program
 - A 1-year sunset date to enable stakeholders to evaluate any impacts and address any additional concerns
- Through the education process, many homeowners may discover that other financing options exist for their specific improvements, so this bill will likely generate business for banks and the lending community as more homeowners pursue these beneficial home energy projects.
- This legislation helps local entities offer another option for financing energy efficiency and renewable energy – Utahns will have more options to choose from and are free to choose the option that best suits their needs.