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1-1-2015

The Impact of Energy Efficiency Measures on Consumer Utility Bills

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Recommended Citation

Mahalingam, Brinda, "The Impact of Energy Efficiency Measures on Consumer Utility Bills" (2015).
Summer Community of Scholars (RCEU and HCR) Project Proposals. 351.
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RCEU Proposal for Summer 2015

Project title: The Impact of Energy Efficiency Measures on Consumer Utility Bills

Research Mentor:

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Project Summary: Nexus Energy, a nonprofit organization in Huntsville along with Cornerstone Initiative, Community Action Partnership, and Operation Green Team has taken the initiative to educate, and help the local community in conserving energy. The Comfort Project is Nexus' energy efficiency program geared for the low-income population including senior citizens, veterans, and distressed neighborhoods. This program raises funds to install energy efficiency measures so home owners can see energy savings in their utility bills. Measures to save energy include attic insulation, air sealing measures, HVAC tune-up and window repair. Nexus also educates homeowners on an energy efficiency efficient home.

Student Duties:

1. The student will collect data from Nexus energy regarding the installation of various energy measures.
2. The student will also collect utility data collected from the households from Nexus Energy
3. The student will organize the data gathered to help with comparison.
4. Once the utility data and energy efficiency are in place, temperature data for the month is gathered and normalize the utility data with temperature data.
5. The energy savings for the homes are then analyzed to show how the energy saving methods worked in saving the homeowners on their energy bills.

The motivation for this project is to show potential homeowners on how they could save on their utility bills and at the same time conserve energy. The student will have hands on experience with a nonprofit organization collecting and analyzing data from various sources. The study will also serve as a learning tool for the community in demonstrating how energy conservation can be converted to real savings. It will also help Nexus in raising funds to further assistance to the needy. The project will help foster a new partnership between UAH and the local community.

The results will be organized and presented at Nexus Energy and will also be used to further apply for grants and other fund raising opportunities.

Supervision: Dr. Brinda Mahalingam will work closely with the student in gathering and analyzing data from Nexus. The research group will meet at BAB 314 on a regular basis.