

## **NYSERDA Approves 50% Reimbursement for GPRO Courses**

Urban Green Council's [Green Professional Building Skills Training \(GPRO\)](#), is now eligible for a 50% reimbursement from NYSERDA, making New York State students who pass the test eligible for a 50% reimbursement for all GPRO courses—a savings of up to \$200 per course.

This reimbursement is made possible through the [NYSERDA](#) Workforce Development Training for Energy Efficiency Program to help individuals obtain nationally recognized certifications relevant to energy efficiency skills and competencies.

Individuals as well as companies who pay for employee training are eligible for the reimbursement, which is in effect for courses taken and passed between November 30, 2009 and May 31, 2012.

### **HOW IT WORKS**

1. Fill out the NYSERDA Reimbursement Form as an individual or a company (a copy can be downloaded from [gpro.org](#)).
2. Attach your proof of payment, copy of your GPRO Certificate and copy of proof of NYS residency (see FAQ's below).
3. Mail your completed application to the address on reimbursement form.

### **FAQs:**

#### **Are all parts of New York State eligible for the reimbursement?**

Yes.

#### **What proof of residency is required?**

- If you live or work in SBC territory, (utility service areas of *Central Hudson, Con Edison, New York State Electric and Gas, National Grid, Orange and Rockland, and Rochester Gas and Electric*), please submit a copy of your home or work utility bill.
- If you live New York State but outside of SBC territory, including Long Island residents within the LIPA service territory and residents in NYPA service territory, you may apply for reimbursement if you can demonstrate that you work in SBC territory.

#### **What is the deadline for submitting an application for reimbursement?**

To be eligible for NYSERDA funding, the training must be completed and the certificate must be awarded between November 30, 2009 and May 31, 2012 and the Reimbursement Form must be submitted no later than May 31, 2012. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until funds run out.

#### **Do the courses need to be taught in New York State?**

Yes.

### **Do I just have to take the course or do I need to take the exam also?**

Students must be present for all of the course hours and take and pass the certificate exam. The GPRO certificate exam is 50 multiple-choice questions testing knowledge from both *Fundamentals of Building Green* and the trade-specific course (if applicable). A score of 70% or higher is required.

### **Does the NYSERDA reimbursement cover all the GPRO fees?**

NYSERDA will provide reimbursement for the following fees:

- 50% of GPRO course fees
- 50% of GPRO exam fees
- 50% of any associated registration fees
- 0% of GPRO material fees

### **ABOUT GPRO**

GPRO: Green Professional Building Skills Training, is a comprehensive training and certificate program that teaches the people who build, renovate, and maintain buildings the principles of sustainability combined with trade-specific green construction knowledge. GPRO is designed for experienced building professionals who seek to integrate green practices into the core knowledge of their trade.

The principal assumption is that participants already know their trade, whether they are plumbers, electricians, construction managers or building operators. GPRO provides students with essential knowledge about trade-specific green building practices that they have likely not experienced on conventionally built projects.

Each candidate will take the 4-hour prerequisite course *Fundamentals of Building Green*, which presents the issues about sustainability and green building, which are applicable to multiple trades and the general public. He or she will then take a 6 – 8 hour course about green work practices specific to their trade and then have the option to take the certificate exam. If successful, that individual becomes a GPRO Certificate Holder.

A GPRO Certificate demonstrates that an individual understands green building as it applies to his or her trade and enhances that person's ability to compete for and participate in green jobs.

GBCI and AIA credits are available for all GPRO courses. Please see [gpro.org](http://gpro.org) for more information.

#### **Available courses:**

Each trade-specific course is paired with a [Fundamentals of Building Green](#) prerequisite course.

Current course offerings include:

[Construction Management](#)

[Operations & Maintenance Essentials](#)

[Electrical Systems](#)

[Plumbing](#) (coming in July 2011)

[Mechanical – Air](#) (coming in Summer 2011)

For more information, please contact:

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