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# GRU offers customers loans to go green

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Low-interest loans are now available to help Gainesville Regional Utilities customers buy energy efficient equipment for their homes.

GRU is partnering with the 1st Credit Union of Gainesville to offer loans of \$1,000 to \$10,000 with a 3 percent interest rate to help customers pay for appliances, insulation and other improvements that will cut their energy consumption, GRU Energy and Business Services Manager Bill Shepherd said.

The list of qualifying improvements includes energy efficient heating and cooling systems, Energy Star-rated appliances, insulation and solar panels for generating electricity or heating water.

Customers can apply for the loans using an application available at the GRU Administration Building, 301 SE 4th Ave., at 1st Credit Union, or online at [www.gru.com](http://www.gru.com). The applications are assessed both on the credit-worthiness of the applicant and whether the plans meet GRU's conservation goals, Shepherd said.

Under the program, the utility will pay up to \$450,000 next year to reduce the interest on qualifying loans to 3 percent, Shepherd said. Between 300 and 400 people are expected to participate in the program, he said.

Shepherd said four people have already turned in applications for the program. The loans allow GRU's conservation programs to reach those who cannot take advantage of the rebates and other incentives the utility already offers, he said.

"There are lot of different ways to approach different customers," Shepherd said. "Some prefer the rebate but others don't have the money to pull out of their pocket to afford the measures, so this will give them a way to get energy saving equipment in their home."

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