

Energy Efficient Furnace Incentive

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Energy Efficient Furnace Incentive program?

The new Energy Efficient Furnace Incentive program offers Nova Scotians a financial incentive to replace an older, inefficient home heating system with new, high efficiency oil-fired heating equipment. This incentive is also available for new oil-fired equipment installed in newly constructed homes.

By paying part of the additional cost of a high efficiency system, the program can help you secure long-term energy savings during times of high energy costs.

Who is eligible to receive an incentive from this program?

This incentive is available to all homeowners in the Province of Nova Scotia who replace, or have replaced, their existing primary heating system with a high efficiency oil-fired furnace or boiler during the term of this program, or who install new oil-fired equipment in a newly constructed home during the term of the program.

The contractor who installs the furnace or boiler must hold the appropriate provincial licenses and the equipment must be new – not a pre-owned or refurbished product.

How long does this program run?

The program covers eligible equipment purchased and installed in a home between September 10, 2008 and September 11, 2009.

Applications will be accepted until March 31, 2010.

How much can I receive in a rebate under this program?

The rebate for qualifying products is \$500. If you install both an ENERGY STAR boiler and indirect water heater, you will receive \$500 for each, for a total rebate of \$1,000.

How much will I save in fuel costs by purchasing a high efficiency system?

Energy savings will vary depending on a number of factors, most notably the difference in the efficiency of the new system and the one it is replacing.

For example, a typical furnace installed in the 1960s or 1970s operates at 55 to 70% efficiency. Replacing it with a new high efficiency model will result in up to 30% improvement in efficiency.

This would save a typical household hundreds of dollars per year in energy costs.

Which products qualify for an incentive?

The incentive applies to high efficiency residential oil-fired furnaces and boilers and indirect water heaters.

To be eligible for the incentive the oil-fired equipment must be:

- 85% AFUE (annual fuel utilization efficiency) or higher for a boiler – ENERGY STAR qualified equipment
- 85% AFUE (annual fuel utilization efficiency) or higher for a furnace – ENERGY STAR qualified equipment

Indirect water heaters, when used in conjunction with an ENERGY STAR certified hot water boiler, also qualify for an additional incentive.

Note: Systems with a tankless coil do not qualify for this rebate.

Where can I find a list of qualified, high efficiency models?

The efficiency ratings of oil-fired furnaces and boilers sold in Canada are listed on the web site of Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency. The listings are updated regularly to ensure that all equipment is included.

Oil-fired Furnaces:

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/energystar/english/consumers/oil-furnace-search.cfm>

Oil-fired Boilers :

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/energystar/english/consumers/oil-boilers-search.cfm>

Are there any add-on pieces of equipment that will disqualify my application?

Yes. If you have a tankless coil installed on the boiler, the application will not be approved. The installation of a tankless coil on a high efficiency boiler reduces the AFUE of the boiler to below ENERGY STAR levels. It also increases the operating cost to the homeowner.

Who is qualified to install my furnace?

Your furnace must be installed by a technician certified by the Nova Scotia government.

Does this rebate apply to the installation of used equipment?

No. The program applies only to the sale and installation of new oilheat equipment that meets the eligibility criteria.

Does this rebate apply if I lease the equipment?

Yes. A copy of the lease must be included with the application form.

What happens if I had equipment installed just prior to September 10, 2008? Am I still eligible for the rebate?

No. Equipment must be purchased and installed between September 10, 2008 and September 11, 2009.

What happens if I buy the equipment before September 11, 2009, but the equipment is not installed before the program ends?

Equipment must be purchased and installed during the program timeframe to be eligible. The rebate will not be available if the equipment is installed after September 11, 2009.

Why do I have to agree to allow a random inspection/audit in the house where the appliance is installed?

As with any government program using taxpayer's money, the government must ensure complete transparency of how funds are used by government, including verification that funds were used under a program as intended. The government reserves the right to audit and verify any records that are filed, including proof that equipment has been installed as reported.

You may be visited by government auditors or inspectors to verify that the equipment installed in your home matches the records that you filed under this program.

When you sign the rebate application form, you are agreeing to participate in a random audit process.

Can I still receive a rebate under the program if I have received any other type of government incentive on the same equipment? (For example, EnerGuide)

Yes. Although this program operates independently from any other government incentive program, you may also receive a rebate for your system if you participate in the EnerGuide for Houses Program. For details, please visit the Conserve Nova Scotia web site at www.conservens.ca

To qualify under the program, the equipment must have been installed during the program period, be installed by a technician certified by the Nova Scotia government, and meet the minimum efficiency levels as defined by the program.

Why do I have to report what equipment was removed from the home?

This is an excellent opportunity for the oilheat industry and the government to gather important information about how we have been able to increase the efficiency level of oilheat appliances across Nova Scotia. As such, we are trying to collect as much information as possible.

Where can I get the necessary rebate application forms?

You can download the forms at www.conservens.ca or call 1-800-670-4636 and request that we send them in the mail. Rebate forms will be available by end of October 2008, at Access Nova Scotia Centres.

How soon can I expect my rebate?

Allow eight weeks for processing. This timeline will be affected if the form is incomplete, or the supporting documentation is not included.

If the equipment included in the application is not eligible (e.g. below the minimum efficiency level), you will receive a letter explaining why your application could not be processed.

If you have questions about the Energy Efficient Furnace Initiative, please call 1-800-670-4357 (toll free) or visit www.HeatSmart.ca

