



News Release

Efficiency New Brunswick

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Changes to residential energy efficiency programs

SAINT JOHN (CNB)– Efficiency NB has revised its residential energy efficiency programs to achieve higher targets and to help New Brunswickers realize greater savings.

"The revised Residential Energy Efficiency Program will reward New Brunswickers for completing more energy-efficient upgrades; for building more energy-efficient homes and apartment buildings; and for using renewable energy systems such as solar domestic hot water systems and geothermal heat pumps," said Craig Leonard, minister responsible for Efficiency NB.

Revisions come into effect April 1. Owners of homes and apartment buildings who completed energy assessments prior to April 1 will follow the program guidelines in place earlier, until Oct. 1. After that date all applications will be assessed using the new guidelines.

Changes to the program for existing homes and apartment buildings include an increase in incentives for upgrades with high energy-saving potential. Upgrades with low energy-saving potential will receive lower incentives.

A new Whole Home Incentive can provide up to an additional 20 per cent in funding when upgrades are completed in three of four major areas: central heating, attic insulation, basement insulation, and wall insulation. Owners who carry out comprehensive whole home upgrades can realize up to a 50 per cent reduction in energy use and may be eligible for the maximum incentive of \$6,000, which has been increased from \$2,000. Homeowners who carry out whole home upgrades and actually achieve a Net Zero rating may be eligible for an additional \$4,000 in incentives.

A Net Zero home or building is connected to the electric power grid but combines a super energy-efficient building with renewable energy systems that produce most, or all of its energy needs on an annual basis.

Efficiency NB will subsidize the cost of a home energy assessment for existing residential buildings by 50 per cent to a maximum of \$260. Homeowners with homes up to 4,000 sq. ft will pay \$150 for the pre-upgrade assessment and \$110 for the post-upgrade assessment with Efficiency NB paying an equal share.

Program changes for new homes and apartment buildings include an increase in the required EnerGuide rating from 80 to 83. Homes with an 83 rating are 25 per cent more energy efficient for space heating and domestic hot water than 80-rated homes. The maximum grant also increases from \$3,000 to \$7,500 for

those homes that achieve a Net Zero rating. Efficiency NB will also subsidize the cost of a new home energy assessment by up to 50 per cent.

"With the same level of government investment these revisions help homeowners achieve even greater savings and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions," said Elizabeth Weir, president and chief executive officer of Efficiency NB. "By raising energy efficiency targets the government is continuing to demonstrate its strong commitment to energy efficiency."

The program offers advice on energy efficiency and incentives for new and existing residential buildings. Participation begins with an energy assessment conducted by an energy advisor who has been licensed by Natural Resources Canada. Owners of existing homes and apartment buildings receive a list of recommended upgrades and have 18 months to complete some or all of them. A second assessment measures the improvement in energy efficiency and verifies the completed upgrades, which may make the owner eligible for funding to help offset the upgrade costs. New homes and apartment buildings have an energy assessment which includes a review of the building plans; recommendations for improving energy efficiency during construction; and validation of the energy efficiency rating once the home is complete.

Since 2005 Efficiency NB programs for the residential, commercial and industrial sectors have resulted in almost \$27 million in annual energy savings and reduced annual greenhouse gas emissions by 170,000 tonnes, an impact equivalent to taking more than 30,000 cars off the road for one year.

Details on the Residential Energy Efficiency Program and the new incentive tables are available at [Efficiency NB's website](#) or by calling 1-866-643-8833.

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