

# Home Energy Assessment Rebate Guide



**efficiency**<sup>™</sup>  
NOVA SCOTIA

# 6 STEPS to Energy Savings

## 1. Book an initial Home Energy Assessment.

To book an assessment, visit our website or call us at 1 877 999 6035 to be connected with an Efficiency Partner in your area.

To be eligible for rebates or financing:

- The majority of your home's heating must be provided by electricity. Please visit our website for full details.
- Your home must be located in Nova Scotia and be at least 6 months old. Single-family homes, both detached and side-by-side row homes, homes with two or less units that share a common passageway, year-round cottages, and mobile homes on a permanent foundation are all eligible.
- Other eligibility requirements apply. Please visit our website for full details.

Once you schedule an appointment, an Energy Advisor will come to your home to conduct an initial assessment. The assessment will take 2-3 hours to complete depending on the size and age of your home. Your advisor will take detailed measurements of your home, document your home's insulation, heating and cooling and ventilation systems, and complete a blower door test to measure air leakage.

## 2. Review your Home Energy Assessment Report.

Within 2 weeks of your initial assessment, you'll receive a detailed report with prioritized recommendations to help you save energy and money. You'll also receive a helpful summary report from Efficiency Nova Scotia, providing further details on average home upgrade costs and anticipated energy savings. Choose the projects you'd like to complete; we can help you decide which ones are right for you.

If you have any questions during your project, contact Efficiency Nova Scotia. They will be happy to provide you with advice and guidance on many topics, including:

- How to use your Home Energy Assessment Report to its fullest;
- Finding and working with a contractor;
- Comparing contractor quotes;
- Understanding the science behind energy efficient home renovations;
- Identifying the upgrades and energy efficiency products that are right for you.

To contact Efficiency Nova Scotia, please call 1 877 999 6035 or email [info@efficiencyns.ca](mailto:info@efficiencyns.ca).

## 3. Choose rebates or financing.

Efficiency Nova Scotia can help cover the cost of upgrades with up to \$5,000 in rebates or low interest financing (OAC)\* up to \$25,000.

## 4. Complete the upgrades of your choice.

To help you decide which upgrades are right for you, Efficiency Nova Scotia offers online tools to help you find a contractor, compare quotes, and more. Visit our website [efficiencyns.ca](http://efficiencyns.ca)

Please note that rebates or financing are only available for upgrades you complete after your initial assessment.

**Helpful tips:** Take photographs of upgrades being performed in areas (such as sloped ceilings, walls, or basement headers) that may not be accessible once work is complete. Keep receipts for your final assessment.

## 5. Complete a final Home Energy Assessment.

You have 12 months to complete your work and have a final assessment. Once the work is complete, contact your Energy Advisor to book your complimentary final assessment. If you need extra time to finish up your project, contact your Energy Advisor. They are able to grant extensions on a case by case basis. Participants who do not contact their Energy Advisor within 12 months of their initial assessment for an extension will be ineligible for rebates.

During the final assessment, your Energy Advisor will verify any upgrades you performed, and perform a blower door test to measure the change in air tightness of your home. Your home will also receive an updated EnerGuide rating and label to reflect the work you performed and the improved efficiency of your home.

## 6. Receive your rebate or start your loan payments.

**Rebates** - Payments are made by cheque and are usually received within 90 days of your final assessment.

**Financing** - Submit all completed forms to us and we'll finalize the loan. You'll receive notification that your loan has been activated and your contractor has been paid. Your loan payments will begin shortly after.

### Re-enrollment

If you've previously had a Home Energy Assessment and are planning more work in the future, you are welcome to participate again 6 months after your final assessment.

Please note that re-enrollment does not allow bundling with upgrades that were previously completed. When you re-enroll the fees and incentives available at that time will apply.

# The more you do, the more you'll save.

We want to help maximize both your energy and financial savings.

Complete two or more "Green" upgrades and your choice of "Smart" add-ons to maximize your savings and receive even higher rebates.

GREEN UPGRADES	SMART ADD-ONS
Ceiling insulation	Air sealing
Foundation insulation	ENERGY STAR® windows and doors
Exterior wall insulation	Basement header insulation
Space heating equipment	Exposed floor insulation
Water heating equipment	Basement slab insulation
	Solar air heating equipment
	Drain water heat recovery
	Heat recovery ventilation

## The Choice is Yours - Rebates or Financing

Rebates of up to \$5,000 are available, or, choose to finance your energy efficiency upgrades\*. For that, we offer low interest financing (OAC)\*\* for up to \$25,000, repaid with an interest rate of 2% and a term of 5 years. Choose the option that's right for you.

	GOOD	BETTER	BEST
<b>Complete...</b>	0-1 Green Upgrades	2 Green Upgrades	3+ Green Upgrades
<b>And...</b>	Any Smart Add-Ons	Any Smart Add-Ons	Any Smart Add-Ons
<b>To receive rebates:</b>	<b>UP TO \$3,000</b>	<b>UP TO \$4,000</b>	<b>UP TO \$5,000</b>
<b>OR</b>			
<b>To receive 2% financing:</b>	<b>From \$2,500, Up to \$15,000</b>	<b>Up to \$20,000</b>	<b>Up to \$25,000</b>

# Insulation

Rebates and financing are available when you insulate a minimum of 20% of the total building component area, e.g. 20% of the total ceiling area, regardless of how many different types of ceiling/roof/attic spaces you have. Rebates are pro-rated based on the percentage of the building component area insulated. Homeowners must provide legible copies of receipts/invoices and interior/exterior photos of all upgrade work completed and any new equipment installed. **Equipment must meet specific criteria to be eligible for incentives. See Eligibility Criteria on pages 6 and 7 for details.**

## Ceiling Insulation

Criteria	Starting Point	Good [0-1 Green Upgrades]	Better [2 Green Upgrades]	Best [3+ Green Upgrades]
Increase attic insulation to R-40	R-12 or less	\$300	\$500	\$600
Increase attic insulation to R-40	Greater than R-12 and up to R-25	\$150	\$250	\$300
Increase attic insulation to R-50	R-12 or less	\$450	\$750	\$900
Increase attic insulation to R-50	Greater than R-12 and up to R-25	\$225	\$375	\$450
Increase attic insulation to R-50	Greater than R-25 and up to R-35	\$75	\$125	\$150
Increase flat roof or cathedral ceiling insulation to R-10	R-0	\$300	\$500	\$600
Increase flat roof or cathedral ceiling insulation to R-28	R-12 or less	\$450	\$750	\$900
Increase flat roof or cathedral ceiling insulation to R-28	Greater than R-12 and up to R-25	\$150	\$250	\$300

## Foundation Insulation

Criteria	Good [0-1 Green Upgrades]	Better [2 Green Upgrades]	Best [3+ Green Upgrades]
Add between R-10 and R-23 to basement foundation walls	\$500	\$550	\$625
Add >R-23 to basement foundation walls	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$1,250
Add between R-10 and R-23 to 100% of crawlspace exterior walls	\$400	\$440	\$500
Add >R-23 to 100% of crawlspace exterior wall	\$800	\$880	\$1,000
Add >R-23 to 100% of floor above crawlspace	\$200	\$250	\$300

## Exterior Wall Insulation

Criteria	Good [0-1 Green Upgrades]	Better [2 Green Upgrades]	Best [3+ Green Upgrades]
Add between R-3.8 and R-9 to exterior walls	\$750	\$900	\$1,200
Add >R-9 to exterior walls	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$1,800

# Space Heating Equipment

Rebates and financing are not available for the replacement of working equipment. Installations must meet all applicable codes. Only one space heating system rebate is available per home. **Equipment must meet specific criteria to be eligible for incentives. See Eligibility Criteria on pages 6 and 7 for details.**

Eligible Upgrade	Good [0-1 Green Upgrades]	Better [2 Green Upgrades]	Best [3+ Green Upgrades]
Ductless mini-split heat pump*	\$400	\$500	\$700
Central ducted air source heat pump	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$1,750
Air to water heat pump	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$1,750
Geothermal heat pump	\$2,000	\$2,200	\$2,500
Wood or pellet stove	\$600	\$700	\$800
Wood or pellet boiler/furnace	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$1,750

\*If more than one single zone system is installed, each subsequent system will receive a \$150 rebate. For multi-zone systems, every additional indoor head after the first will receive a \$150 rebate.

# Water Heating Equipment

Water heating system rebates are only available if you currently heat your hot water with electricity. **Equipment must meet specific criteria to be eligible for incentives. See Eligibility Criteria on pages 6 and 7 for details.**

Eligible Upgrade	Good [0-1 Green Upgrades]	Better [2 Green Upgrades]	Best [3+ Green Upgrades]
Heat pump water heater	\$250	\$300	\$350
Solar water heater	\$1,100	\$1,200	\$1,250

## Smart Add-ons

Bundle your Smart add-ons with two or more Green Upgrades to maximize your incentive. **Equipment must meet specific criteria to be eligible for incentives. See Eligibility Criteria on pages 6 and 7 for details.**

Eligible Upgrade	Good [0-1 Green Upgrades]	Better [2 Green Upgrades]	Best [3+ Green Upgrades]
Air sealing	\$200	\$300	\$400
Windows, doors & skylights	\$20	\$30	\$40
Basement header insulation	\$100	\$125	\$150
Exposed floor insulation	\$100	\$150	\$200
Basement slab insulation	\$100	\$150	\$200
Solar air	\$500	\$550	\$600
Drain water heat recovery	\$100	\$150	\$200
Heat recovery ventilation	\$100	\$200	\$300

## Example



Sally knows she wants a ductless mini-split heat pump, and her assessment identified some easy air sealing work. She also has an uninsulated attic and an unfinished basement but wasn't sure about the cost until her report showed how much energy she could save. In order to get the best bang for her buck, she performs all the upgrades at the same time to take advantage of the bundling incentives Efficiency Nova Scotia has to offer.

If She Bundles 1 Green Upgrade:	If She Bundles 2 Green Upgrades	If She Bundles 3 Green Upgrades
Ductless mini-split heat pump (\$400)	Ductless mini-split heat pump (\$500)	Ductless mini-split heat pump (\$700)
+ Air sealing (\$200)	+ Air sealing (\$300)	+ Air sealing (\$400)
	+ R-50 attic (\$750)	+ R-50 attic (\$900)
		+ R-24 basement (\$1,250)
= <b>\$600 rebate</b>	= <b>\$1,550 rebate</b> (including a \$500 bundling bonus)	= <b>\$3,250 rebate</b> (including a \$1,200 bundling bonus)

# Eligibility Criteria

Participation in the Home Energy Assessment program precludes homeowners from receiving rebates for the same upgrades in other Efficiency Nova Scotia programs. Only rebates from one program will be issued for any particular measure.

## Insulation

- When the roof consists of more than one type (i.e. attic, cathedral ceiling, and/or flat roof), ceiling rebates are pro-rated based on the overall ceiling area and roof type. For example, insulating two ceiling types does not result in obtaining the maximum rebate for each ceiling type.
- For a semi-detached or end unit row house, foundation and exterior wall rebates are 75% of the amounts shown. For a middle unit row house, rebates are 50% of the amounts shown.
- Foundation rebates are pro-rated based on the overall percentage of basement wall area insulated. When both a basement and crawlspace are insulated, rebate amounts are combined to a maximum of \$1,250.

## Ductless Mini-split Heat Pumps

- Must be on the Efficiency Nova Scotia Cold Climate Heat Pump product list: [efficiencyns.ca/minisplits](http://efficiencyns.ca/minisplits)
- All units on this list meet the following eligibility criteria:
  - Single-zone systems must have an HSPF (Canada - Region 5)  $\geq 9.0$
  - Multi-zone systems must have an HSPF (Canada - Region 5)  $\geq 8.0$
  - ENERGY STAR (version 5.0) qualified
  - The coefficient of performance at -15 degrees Celsius must be  $\geq 1.75$

## Centrally Ducted Heat Pump

- Only ENERGY STAR (Version 5.0) qualified heat pumps are eligible.

## Air-to-Water Heat Pumps

- All air-to-water heat pumps must be third-party tested to CSAC656-05 or ANSI/AHRI 210/240-1994 (EER) or equivalent.
- Air-to-water systems must meet the following efficiency requirements:

	SEER	EER	HSPF-US	HSPF-Canada
Split System	$\geq 15.0$	$\geq 12.5$	$\geq 8.5$	$\geq 7.4$
Single Package	$\geq 15.0$	$\geq 12.0$	$\geq 8.2$	$\geq 7.1$

## Ground Source Heat Pumps

- The system must be installed and certified by a Canadian Geoexchange Coalition (CGC) qualified installer.

## Wood and Pellet Stoves and Furnaces

- Eligible wood/pellet equipment must meet either the CSA-B415.1-10 or the US EPA 40CFR Part 60 AAA standard. All wood/pellet stoves must be EPA or CSA certified with emissions rating of  $\leq 4.5$  g/hr for total filterable particulate matter (TPM). All wood/pellet furnaces or boilers must be EPA or CSA certified with emissions rating of  $\leq 4.5$  g/hr or  $\leq 0.40$ g/MJ for TPM. For a list of potential equipment, visit EPA's website.
- All wood/pellet systems must be installed by a Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) certified professional that has either "Technician" or "Sweep" certification. Alternatively, an installation can occur by a non-WETT certified installer, however the entire system must be subsequently inspected and approved by a WETT certified inspector.
- Outdoor wood/pellet furnaces or boilers are not eligible for rebates or financing.

## Hybrid Heat Pump Water Heaters

- The hybrid heat pump water heater must be ENERGY STAR certified.
- The equipment must replace an existing electric resistance water heater.
- The equipment must be in a room at least 1,000 ft<sup>3</sup> in volume (roughly 12ft x 12ft).

## Solar Systems

- All solar collectors (both Air and Domestic Hot Water) must be certified under one of the following CSA classes:
  - CSA Class 2831-06, 2831-07, 2831-30 or 2831-37
  - CSA Class 8854 (Previously CSA F378/F379)
- Qualified Solar Domestic Hot Water Systems can be found at Natural Resources Canada's website - Performance Directory of Solar Domestic Hot Water Systems.
- The Solar Domestic Hot Water System is designed for year-round operation for domestic water use (although other applications may be incorporated into system design e.g. space heat).
- The equipment is installed according to industry best practice and manufacturer's instructions.
- A minimum of R-3 pipe insulation is installed on:
  - The first 3 metres (10 feet) of the cold and the full length of hot water piping (if accessible) connected to the conventional water heater.
  - All piping connecting the solar storage tank to the solar collector.
  - All piping connecting the solar storage tank to the conventional water heater.

## Air Sealing

- Achieve the air sealing target identified in your energy assessment report to be eligible for the rebate.

## Windows, Doors & Skylights

- Please note that windows, doors & skylights are not eligible to be financed. In the event that you decide to finance other upgrades and still install eligible windows, doors or skylights, they will be eligible for rebates.
- Windows, doors, and skylights that are ENERGY STAR qualified for climate zone 2 (previously climate zone B), and which are installed into pre-existing rough openings are eligible for rebates.
- Rebate amounts are calculated per rough opening, not per number of windows. For example, a bay window with three window units installed into one rough opening is eligible for only one rebate.
- Inserting an ENERGY STAR qualified window unit into the existing frame of an old window qualifies for rebates, however, replacing the glass, sash, or door without a frame is not eligible for rebates.
- Each qualified model comes with a temporary label/sticker showing the appropriate ENERGY STAR climate zones. Keep these stickers on the windows/doors until your final Home Energy Assessment is complete.

## Basement Header Insulation

- Add  $\geq$ R-20 to 100% of basement headers.

## Exposed Floor Insulation

- Add  $\geq$ R-20 to at least 150 square feet of exposed floor area (e.g. floor over an unheated garage).

## Basement Slab Insulation

- Add at least R-3.8 of insulation to 100% of the basement slab.

## Drain Water Heat Recovery

- The equipment must have a heat recovery efficiency of greater than or equal to 42% as determined by an independent testing facility.
- Qualified drain water heat recovery systems can be found at Natural Resources Canada's website.

## Heat Recovery Ventilation

- Certified by the Home Ventilating Institute (HVI) as a heat-recovery ventilator (HRV) or energy-recovery ventilator.
- If replacing pre-existing air exchanger, the HVI certified HRV must replace a non-HVI certified HRV.

Visit us online for more energy saving tips and ways to save.

1 877 999 6035 | [efficiency.ns.ca](http://efficiency.ns.ca) |  

HELPING YOU SAVE.

