



Homeowner's Guide to Energy Conservation Incentives

How can I reduce my home energy costs? Can I afford renewable energy? What are energy efficiency tax credits? Use this guide to decrease your energy consumption and save on energy costs.

LOCAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Contact your local Community Action Agency to find out if you are eligible for a free home energy audit and energy efficiency improvements through the Weatherization Program (based on income). Energy audits assess your home's energy performance and can help determine the improvements that would best address your specific energy needs. By carrying out the suggested steps, this work can save up to 30% on your home's annual energy costs and pay for itself within a few years.

You can contact your local weatherization program either by calling them directly or by dialing 2-1-1, which is a statewide helpline with operators available to answer questions and direct calls to the appropriate community action agency for each region. Get the contact list of offices statewide at the website:

http://dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/weatherization_offices

EFFICIENCY VERMONT

Efficiency Vermont can help you figure out which loans, federal and state incentives are available and which would work best for each specific project. They also offer rebates for various energy efficiency improvements and for ENERGY STAR rated appliances. Efficiency Vermont even has a recycling program for old, outdated refrigerators. Be sure to check with them before purchasing or starting a project to see if your improvements and appliances meet their eligibility requirements, as these programs are always changing.

For more information contact:

Website: www.encyvermont.org

Phone: (888)921-5990 ext. 1110

FEDERAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Tax credits for energy efficiency reduce your income tax to encourage investments in energy efficiency. The tax credits offset a portion of the cost of renewable energy technology or energy efficiency improvements for one's home.

In existing homes, tax credits are available for 30% of the cost of the following energy efficiency improvements, with a limit of \$1,500 for ALL improvements purchased and installed from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010:

- Insulation upgrades
- Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Roofs (metal and asphalt)
- Water heaters (non-solar)
- Windows and doors
- Biomass stoves

Tax credits are available for 30% of the cost of the following items, with NO UPPER LIMIT through 2016, for BOTH EXISTING & NEW HOMES:

- Solar panels
- Solar water heaters
- Small wind energy systems
- Fuel cells
- Geothermal heat pumps

For more information contact:

Website: www.energystar.gov/taxcredits

STATE REBATE PROGRAM: VERMONT SMALL-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The state rebate program offers rebates for various renewable energy technologies. In order for the energy improvements to qualify for this program, the technology must be installed by a registered Vermont Solar and Wind Partner. A list is provided on the website listed below.

Renewable Energy Systems that Qualify and Tax Credits:

Solar water heater: \$1.75 per 100 Btu/day or a maximum of \$8,750.

Solar panels (photovoltaic): \$1.75/W DC or maximum of \$8,750.

Wind: \$2.50/watt-\$4/watt or a maximum of \$12,500.

Micro-hydro electric: \$1.75/3 ft-gal/min or a maximum of \$8,750

For more information contact:

Website: www.erc-vt.org/

Registered Installers

Web site: www.revermont.org/installers.php

LOCAL UTILITY ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Contact your local utility provider to find out about their current energy efficiency program.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Tax Incentives Assistance Project (TIAP)

TIAP is an excellent resource for homeowners' to find out more about the federal energy efficiency tax credits and other resources.

Website: <http://energytaxincentives.org/>

E-mail: tiap@aceee.org

Renewable Energy Vermont (REV)

REV is an organization that is dedicated to helping increase renewable energy usage in Vermont. It is comprised of renewable energy companies, institutional and academic organizations, and concerned citizens. This is a great resource for information on Vermont's renewable energy options and businesses.

Phone: (802) 229-0099

Website: www.revermont.org/

Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE)

DSIRE is an excellent resource for all statewide incentive programs that are available including contact information. It is highly suggested that you check on the current status of these programs as they are always changing.

Website: www.dsireusa.org/

Hopefully this guide will get you started on your search for ways to reduce your impact on the planet and your wallet. Be prepared for some detective work, as programs do change from time to time. Also, eligibility for some incentives is based on income while others are available to all homeowners. Check it out!

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

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