

The following frequently asked questions are intended to help Brookline homeowners understand the Green Homes Brookline program. Taking full advantage of available rebates and subsidies can be confusing to homeowners. Don't let that keep you from saving money while using less electricity and gas or oil. Complete and submit the form at www.greenhomesbrookline.org or contact Next Step Living at 866-867-8729 to get answers to all of your questions.

Q. Who's eligible for Green Homes Brookline?

A. Anyone who resides in Brookline is eligible for a free home energy assessment and weatherization rebates. Additional Town of Brookline subsidies are available for residents who meet the following Income Eligibility Guidelines. To find out the best program for you call 866-867-8729 or visit www.greenhomesbrookline.org.

Green Homes Brookline Household Income Eligibility Guidelines*	
One-person household	\$30,751 to \$61,502
Two-person household	\$40,213 to \$80,426
Three-person household	\$49,675 to \$99,350
Four-person household	\$59,137 to \$118,274
Five-person household	\$68,598 to \$137,196
Six-person household	\$78,060 to \$156,120
* Residents with incomes below these limits should contact ABCD at 617-357-6012. If you have questions, you may call Next Step Living at 1 (866) 867-8729	

Q. What if I live in a multi-family building that has more than four units?

A. Residents of buildings having more than four units may also be eligible for assistance. Complete and submit the form at www.greenhomesbrookline.org or contact Next Step Living at 866-867-8729 to get more information.

Q. Are renters eligible?

A. Renters may also be eligible for assistance. Complete and submit the form at www.greenhomesbrookline.org or contact Next Step Living at 866-867-8729 to get more information.

The following frequently asked questions only apply to residents of single family homes and homes in multi-family buildings consisting of no more than four units, such as a four family condominium. However, residents of buildings having more than four units may also be eligible for assistance. Complete and submit the form at www.greenhomesbrookline.org or contact Next Step Living at 866-867-8729 to get more information.

Cost Savings

Q. Will I save money?

A. On average, weatherization results in savings of \$500-900 per year in energy costs. Weatherization work typically costs several thousand dollars overall, but with the instant utility rebates eligible customers only pay \$500-700 so the project usually pays for itself in just one heating season and you'll save thousands of dollars in the following years.

The Town of Brookline has dedicated federal stimulus dollars to helping moderate income families take advantage of these programs by making weatherization services available at no cost in many cases. In this case you'll begin to save money instantly.

There will be some cases in which the rebates will not cover all the recommended work, but that will only be known after you have had an assessment which won't cost you anything. You'll have an option to decide what work to pursue after receiving your free home energy audit. If you do pay for some of the work yourself, you may be eligible for some income tax credits, but you'll need to talk to a tax consultant to find out for sure.

Home Energy Audits

Q. Are home energy audits including blower door tests available free of charge to all residents living in homes having up to four residential units (such as a four family condo)?

A. Free blower door test audits are available to residents who have opportunity to perform weatherization work. This is a pretty low bar, but the audits are specifically NOT for people who have just weatherized their home or want to kick the tires to see how they did. These folks can receive free screening visits through Mass Save if they have not had one in the past 12 months.

Q. What is the protocol if only fewer than four units in a four-family building want to partake of the energy audit services?

A. We strive to serve entire buildings at a time and will work with residents to get their building neighbors on board. In cases where this is not possible, we are usually able to work with the participating units.

Air Sealing

Q. Is air sealing available free of charge to all residents living in homes having up to four residential units (such as a four family condo)?

A. Yes.

Q. What type of air sealing work is covered by the Green Homes Brookline program?

A. Free **cost-effective air sealing** (as determined by the advisor) is available to all homes that have had an energy assessment in which the advisor recommended air sealing. This is typically attic and basement air sealing in preparation for insulation. Sealing the attic and the basement are the most cost effective actions to take. This action stops the "stack effect" in which cool air enters the basement, enters the living space, is warmed and leaves through the attic. This air current is often responsible for small drafts that people feel in their living space (around the windows for example), so once the attic and basement are sealed, the living space drafts cease.

Q. What is the protocol if fewer than four units in a four-family building want to partake of the air sealing services?

A. We strive to serve entire buildings at a time and will work with residents to get their building neighbors on board. In cases where this is not possible, we are usually able to work with the participating units.

Q. Should I be concerned that air sealing might adversely affect the air quality in my home?

A. Homeowners are often concerned about sealing their house too tightly, however, the air sealing is conducted in combination with a blower door test to ensure the home does not fall below it's Building Tightness Limits

Insulation

Q. Is the installation of insulation available free of charge (up to the Mass Save plus REEP subsidy limits) to residents living in homes having up to four residential units (such as a four family condo)?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the protocol if fewer than four units in a four-family building want to partake of the insulation services?

A. We strive to serve entire buildings at a time and will work with residents to get their building neighbors on board. In cases where this is not possible, we are usually able to work with the participating units.

Q. If the maximum "free" insulation limit is \$2000 does that mean that a four family unit is eligible for \$8,000 worth of work even if one particular family unit requires more or less than \$2000 worth of work?

A. Each separate electric account is eligible for a Mass Save Rebate and a Green Homes Brookline subsidy (in the target income range). A four unit building that was separately metered could access four times the individual rebate amounts.

Q. Can residents take advantage of the Green Homes Brookline rebates and subsidies and also receive income tax credits?

A. Additional savings through income tax credits can only be received for a resident's expenditures over and above the Green Home Brookline rebates and subsidies.