

Rebates, Incentives, Tax Credits, and Other Information for Home Energy Efficiency Improvements

There are hundreds of different rebates, tax credits, incentives, coupons, and other offers available from government agencies, public utilities, and private companies. This document includes the most broadly applicable offers available to residents of Massachusetts. Some are relevant outside the state as well. Some financial incentives are time-limited or restricted to people who meet certain criteria. For instance, you must be a National Grid customer to apply for one of their offers. Be sure to read the materials carefully and call to confirm the terms before assuming you are eligible or how much you will receive.

Note: MCAN does not explicitly endorse any of these resources.

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Home Heating Oil Financial Assistance

Mass Energy Oil Buyers Co-Op

Mass Energy's Heating Oil Alliance is the program for any household in Eastern and Central Massachusetts, regardless of income, that wants to save on heating and electricity costs. The Heating Oil Alliance is a membership organization that operates like a buyers club or a co-op. We use the buying power of our 7000 members across the state to negotiate better prices for consumers.

617-524-3950 or 1-800-287-3950

<http://massenergy.com/Oil.How.html>

Natural Gas Customers

Energy Star

Rebates are available for new gas heating systems, hot water heating equipment, and thermostats.

<http://www.massenergy.com>

<http://gasnetworks.com>

NStar

http://nstar.com/residential/energy_efficiency/gas_programs/

Electricity Customers

National Grid

Rebates available for furnaces, water heaters, replacement windows, solar hot water projects, and weatherization products.

<http://www.nationalgridus.com/masselectric/home/energyeff/energyeff.asp>

Home Energy Efficiency Assessments

MassSave

An energy expert will come to your home and identify possible energy efficiency improvements. You could receive a 50% rebate up to \$1,500 to complete recommended energy efficiency improvements.

1-800-632-8300

<http://www.masssave.com/customers/>

MassSave HEAT Loan Program

The HEAT Loan Program provides customers the opportunity to apply for a 0% loan from participating lenders to assist customers with the installation of qualified energy efficient improvements in their homes. The loans are available up-to \$10,000 with terms up-to 7 years. To apply for the loan, the customer must own and reside in a one to four family residence and obtain a home energy assessment through MassSave.

http://www.masssave.com/about/heat_loan.php

National Grid's "Energy Bucks" Appliance Management Program

This program helps reduce electricity and oil costs for income eligible customers through your local community action agency, as well as certain appliances, lighting, water saving measures, insulation and air sealing, and heating and cooling system replacements. To find out if you are eligible or to locate your community action program, call 1-866-537-7267 or visit the website. <http://www.energybucks.com/apply.html>

Weatherization Rebates (air sealing and insulation)

National Grid/Keyspan

National Grid keeps a list of "qualified" weatherization contractors. Being on the list simply means that you should be qualified to get a rebate from National Grid if you apply for it correctly. National Grid and Keyspan recently merged. Previously they had separate energy efficiency rebate programs offering different amounts back for the same types of work. Now that they have merged, the information on their websites is sometimes conflicting. So it is especially important to CALL and get the promise in writing before you agree with a contractor to do any work! https://www.nationalgridus.com/masselectric/home/energyeff/4_energy_svcs.asp

NStar

Rebates up to \$2,000 from for adding wall insulation, attic insulation or air sealing. Call 800-266-3517 http://nstar.com/residential/energy_efficiency/gas_programs/

Energy Efficiency Products

EnergyStar Products

Energy efficient choices can save families about a third on their energy bill with similar savings of greenhouse gas emissions, without sacrificing features, style or comfort. Household products display the ENERGY STAR meet energy-efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and US Department of Energy. Energy Star rates and approves many types of appliances and home improvement products. http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.

Kill A Watt Meter

An inexpensive little device (typically about \$20, or free if your library has one to check out) that you plug an appliance into and then read the display to find out how much energy it is using. Hard to find in retail stores but available from many online sellers.

Programmable Thermostats

These can be purchased for as little as \$20 and up, but you might want a handyman or someone experienced in home repair to install it. They can help you cut way down on your energy use, particularly at night and when everyone is at work or at school. They are available at most home improvement and hardware stores.

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Bulbs

CFLs use about a quarter the energy of a regular light bulb, last many years instead of months, work in standard light sockets, and have light quality similar to regular bulbs. The prices have

come way down in the past few years, and they are available in all home stores and most supermarkets.

Miscellaneous

Green Product Guide from NEXUS Green Building Resource Center

<http://www.nexusboston.com/learn/products.html>

BuildingGreen's GreenSpec® Directory

Product descriptions for over 2,000 environmentally preferable products. To choose these products our editors conduct their own research based on GreenSpec's current editorial focus. Thus not all product suggestions we receive are selected for review. This independent research ensures that our product descriptions contain unbiased, quality information.

<http://www.buildinggreen.com/menus/index.cfm>

Renewable Energy

Massachusetts Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit

<http://www.state.ma.us/doer/programs/renew/renew.htm#taxcred>

Solar Energy

Commonwealth Solar

Commonwealth Solar provides rebates through a non-competitive application process for the installation of PV projects at residential and other facilities.

<http://www.masstech.org/solar/>

Federal Residential Solar Tax Credit

A 30% federal tax credit up to \$2,000 for purchase and installation of residential solar electric and solar water heating equipment. Use IRS form 5695 to apply for the credit.

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f5695.pdf>

Solar Pathfinder: Analyze sites to determine their suitability for solar installations:

<http://www.solarpathfinder.com/products.html>

Wind Energy

MTC Small Renewables Initiative Rebates

http://www.masstech.org/renewableenergy/small_renewables.htm

Small Wind Turbine Equipment

U.S. manufacturers and suppliers of wind turbines for use in residential as well as commercial/industrial applications.

<http://www.awea.org/smallwind/smsyslst.html>

Energy Mortgages

An energy mortgage is a mortgage that credits a home's energy efficiency in the home loan. There are two types of energy mortgages:

Energy Improvement Mortgage - Finances the energy upgrades of an existing home in the mortgage loan using monthly energy savings

Energy Efficient Mortgage - Uses the energy savings from a new energy efficient home to increase the home buying power of consumers and capitalizes the energy savings in the appraisal

<http://www.resnet.us/ratings/mortgages/default.htm>

Guides for Do-It-Yourselfers

Home air sealing and insulation:

http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/publications/pubdocs/DIY_Guide_May_2008.pdf

Residential doors, windows, and skylights:

A short guide on energy-efficient home improvements.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_index

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=windows_doors.pr_windows

A quick primer on weatherization from Green Decade Newton:

http://www.greendecade.org/download/bldg_brochure.pdf

Other Resources

Directories

Green Service Provider Directory is a free resource for building owners and renters, homeowners, design professionals, facilities managers, policy-makers and all other companies or individuals seeking professional services related to green building, green living or sustainable development. Focusing on Massachusetts, the service was created by NEXUS at the Green Roundtable, Boston.

<http://www.nexusboston.com/action/services.html>

Rate It Green National Green Resource Directory

<http://www.rateitgreen.com/>

Gas Networks offers a variety of residential rebates and energy conservation programs designed to help our consumers reduce energy consumption, energy bills, and ultimately, help save the environment. Simply click on any program category to learn more about how to take advantage of these exciting programs.

<http://gasnetworks.com/efficiency/residential.asp>

Books

Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings, By Alex Wilson, Jennifer Thorne, and John Morrill. Published by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
From refrigerators to furnaces, air conditioners to washing machines, this small book contains clear, full explanations of different home energy efficiency measures and appliances.

Websites

Massachusetts Incentives from the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency

<http://www.dsireusa.org/library/includes/map2.cfm?CurrentPageID=1&State=MA&RE=1&EE=1>

Harvard Local Energy Incentives: <http://www.harvardlocal.org/incentives.shtml>

Green Decade Newton Energy Resources: http://www.greendecade.org/resource_energy.html