



# Home Energy Assessment Rebate Guide



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# Home Energy Assessment Overview

A Home Energy Assessment is the best way to discover how to save energy in your home.

A registered Energy Advisor will come to your home and perform a Home Energy Assessment, which includes checking insulation levels, air leakage, and mechanical systems. An assessment typically takes 2 to 3 hours, and the initial findings will be an important benchmark in your energy savings journey.

Following the assessment, you will get an EnerGuide Rating of your home's energy performance as well as a Renovation Upgrade Report that has prioritized efficiency upgrades that you can use as a roadmap to save energy and money.

A Home Energy Assessment with an Efficiency Nova Scotia partnered service organization is needed to access certain provincial and federal incentives available to Nova Scotians.

You will see rebate amounts and guidance throughout this guide for the following programs:

- Home Energy Assessment program
- Moderate Income Rebate program
- Oil to Heat Pump Affordability program

Our network of 300+ Efficiency Preferred Partners are professionals in a variety of areas, including general contractors, insulation installers, heating system installers, electricians, and more. We connect home and business owners with these local professionals to help with energy efficiency improvements.

Search [our directory](#) to find one of our Preferred Partner members to complete your efficiency project. You can search by business name, region, or service type.

# Program Steps

- Step 1**  
Apply for income dependent incentives before taking any other steps  
If your household is on a moderate income, [apply online](#) to see if you qualify for additional rebates and a free Home Energy Assessment. Wait for Efficiency Nova Scotia to contact you about your approval before starting any upgrades. See page 11 for an overview on Moderate Income Rebates.
- Step 2**  
Book your initial Home Energy Assessment for \$199 or for free if you qualify\*  
Need help finding a Registered Energy Advisor? Use our [online directory](#) to easily connect with approved service organizations.  
\*Low to moderate income households can submit an application to receive an assessment for free.
- Step 3**  
Review your recommendations & plan your upgrades  
After your assessment, you'll receive an EnerGuide label and a Renovation Upgrade Report from your Registered Energy Advisor that is tailored to your home. Review this rebate guide to ensure you understand all program rules and equipment eligibility.
- Step 4**  
Direct to Contractor Payment  
If you applied and are approved for Oil to Heat Pump Affordability (OHPA) rebates, you may choose to have a portion of those rebates paid directly to your contractor within 10 business days of installation and submission of close out paperwork showing proof of installation. Log back in to the [Efficiency Nova Scotia site](#) to request Direct to Contractor payment.
- Step 5**  
Complete the upgrades of your choice  
Need help finding a contractor? Search our Efficiency Preferred Partner [online directory](#) to easily connect with contractors. You can search by region, expertise, and services offered.  
  
We recommend getting at least three quotes, ensuring you obtain all applicable permits and follow local building code requirements, and contact your home insurance provider before proceeding with any planned upgrades.  
  
Keep all invoices and receipts of upgrades performed and take photos of work in progress. There is a receipt example at the end of this rebate guide.  
Please note, you have 12 months from your first energy assessment to complete your work and have your final energy assessment.  
For extensions, consult your Registered Energy Advisor. Please note that if an extension is granted, changes to rebate availability and criteria may apply.
- Step 6**  
Book your final Home Energy Assessment  
Once all your upgrades are finished, book a final energy assessment with the Registered Energy Advisor who performed the initial energy assessment. They will verify all upgrades and update your home's EnerGuide rating.
- Step 7**  
Receive rebates after your upgrades have been verified  
You should expect a rebate cheque to be mailed to you within 90 days of your final assessment. Some delays can be expected for newly announced programs or enhancements.

# All Program General Criteria

## Need help defining any of the terms in this guide?

Find the EnerGuide Glossary [here](#).

The below is general criteria to receive a Home Energy Assessment. **All Nova Scotia homeowners, regardless of income level or heating type, can receive up to \$5,000 in rebates on qualifying upgrades.**

- Home is located in Nova Scotia. The applicant will need to demonstrate proof of ownership (i.e., property tax bill number).
- Home is at least six months old from the date on the occupancy permit and connected to the North American electricity grid (off-grid homes are not eligible).
- Home must be in livable condition, without major ongoing construction. This means all above grade walls and roofing have interior and exterior finishes, and there is a functioning automated heating system.
- Home may be any of the following dwelling types:
  - Single or semi-detached (i.e., duplex).
  - Side-by-side row housing (i.e., townhome).
  - Mobile home on a permanent foundation.
  - Permanently-moored floating home.
  - Mixed use building where the residential portion is at least 50% of the building area.
  - Low-rise multi-unit residential building (two storeys or less with a footprint of 600m<sup>2</sup> or less).
  - Some multi-unit buildings (up to six units) are eligible for HEA rebates.
  - Please call Efficiency Nova Scotia for more information.
- Equipment and materials must be new and unused.
- Upgrades must be purchased and installed between the initial and final assessment dates.
- Rebate totals are capped at 100% of costs incurred by program participants.
- Participants must keep all receipts and invoices pertaining to upgrades for five years.
- If an addition or other change to the heated boundaries of the building is made after the initial assessment, upgrades performed to the new location are ineligible for rebate.
- Participation in the Home Energy Assessment program precludes customers from receiving rebates for the same upgrades through other Efficiency Nova Scotia programs (such as but not limited to HomeWarming and Heating System Rebate) and only rebates from one program will be issued for any particular upgrade unless otherwise stated.
- All equipment must be purchased in Canada. Online purchases are only eligible if they are ordered from a distributor located in Canada.

# Home Energy Assessment

## Additional Criteria & Rebate Overview

# Insulation

## Need help? Planning multiple upgrades?

Speak with one of our Energy Solutions Advisors at **1-877-999-6035** or **info@efficiencyns.ca** to explore how to best maximize rebates across our programs.

### Ceiling Insulation

Criteria	Starting R-Value	Available Rebates (Based on % area insulated)
Increase attic insulation to R-50. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	R-12 or less	\$150 - \$750
	R-13 to R-25	\$75 - \$375
	R-26 to R-35	\$25 - \$125
Increase flat roof/cathedral ceiling insulation to R-20. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	R-0	\$100 - \$500
Increase flat roof/cathedral ceiling insulation to R-28. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	R-12 or less	\$150 - \$750
	R-13 to R-25	\$50 - \$250

*Rebates are determined by upgrade area percentage. For example, if your home is 80% attic and 20% flat roof/cathedral, and you upgrade both based on this rebate table, you will be eligible for 80% of the maximum attic rebate and 20% of the maximum flat roof/cathedral rebate. If you only upgrade 50% of the attic, you would be eligible for 40% of the maximum attic rebate.*

### Exterior Wall Insulation

Area	Criteria	Available Rebates (Based on % area insulated)
Above Ground Exterior Walls	Add between R-3.8 & R-7.4 to existing insulation. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	\$180- \$900
	Add R-7.5 or more to existing insulation. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	\$300 - \$1,500

### Exposed Floor Insulation

Area	Criteria	Available Rebates
Exposed Floor	Add at least R-20 to exposed floor area. Must insulate 100% of area, area must be 120ft <sup>2</sup> minimum.	\$200

## Foundation

Area	Criteria	Available Rebates (Based on % area insulated)
Basement Walls	Add between R-10 & R-22 to existing insulation. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	\$120 - \$600
	Add R-22 or more to existing insulation. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	\$240 - \$1,200
Basement Wall Header	Add at least R-20 to existing insulation. Must insulate at least 80% of area.	\$120 - \$150
Crawlspace Walls & Header	Add between R-10 and R-22 to existing insulation. Must insulate 100% of area.	\$480
	Add R-22 or more to existing insulation. Must insulate 100% of area.	\$960
Floor Above Crawlspace	Add at least R-24 to existing insulation. Must insulate 100% of area.	\$240
Basement Slab	Add at least R-3.5 to existing insulation. Must insulate at least 50% of area.	\$100 - \$200

*Rebates are determined by upgrade area percentage. For example, if your home is 80% basement and 20% crawlspace, and you upgrade both based on this rebate table, you will be eligible for 80% of the maximum basement wall rebate and 20% of the maximum crawlspace wall & header rebate. If you only upgrade 50% of the basement walls, you would be eligible for 40% of the maximum basement walls rebate.*

## Insulation – Additional Eligibility Criteria

- All materials will be assessed based on nationally recognized thermal resistance values, especially those outside of the norm.
- For **semi-detached or end unit row homes**, foundation and exterior wall max rebates are 75% of the amount shown. For a middle unit row home, rebates are 50% of the max amounts shown. There are no rebates available for insulating shared interior walls.



# Heating Equipment

## Air Source Heat Pumps

System Type	Criteria	Available Rebates (based on newly added capacity)
Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump	Has a check mark under the appropriate program category on our <a href="#">heat pump list</a> .	\$300 per ton
Centrally Ducted Heat Pump	Has a check mark under the appropriate program category on our <a href="#">heat pump list</a> .	\$500 per ton

Must be installed by a certified Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic (RACM).

## Geothermal Heat Pump

System Type	Maximum Capacity	COP heating	COP cooling	Available Rebates (based on newly added capacity)
Closed Loop	40 kW or 135k Bru/h	At least 3.1 with 0°C water entering	At least 3.93 with 25°C water entering	\$600 per ton
Open Loop		At least 3.6 with 10°C water entering	At least 4.75 with 15°C water entering	

Must be installed by a certified Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic (RACM).

## Heat Pump Water Heaters

System Size	Product Standard	Energy Factor	Uniform Energy Factor	Available Rebates
Less Than 56 Gallons	ENERGY STAR®	At least 2.00 with a first hour rating of at least 50 gallons/hour	At least 2.00 with a first hour rating of at least 45 gallons/hour	\$400
At Least 56 Gallons		At least 2.20 with a first hour rating of at least 50 gallons/hour	At least 2.20 with a first hour rating of at least 45 gallons/hour	

Must be installed by a certified professional.

## Heat Pumps – Additional Eligibility Criteria

The following systems are not eligible for rebates under Home Energy Assessment:

- Replacement heat pumps, functioning or non-functioning.
- Ducted, compact ducted, mixed-ducted mini-splits.
- Direct expansion (DX), water-to-water, brine-to-water geothermal systems.
- Any heat pump equipment installed in unconditioned space (i.e., ductwork through unconditioned attic spaces).

Heat pump rebates are based on the Rated Capacity in tons (47°F) and are pro-rated, based on the ton, with one ton equal to 12,000 BTU/h.

If a heat pump(s) is already installed in the home, rebates will be calculated based on the added capacity (newly added heat pump capacity in tons – removed heat pump capacity in tons = added capacity eligible for rebate).

## Wood Burning Equipment

Product Type	Certification	EPA or CSA Emissions	Available Rebates
Wood Stove	CSA-B415.1-10	Less than 2.5 grams/hour	\$500/unit
Pellet Stove			
Pellet Boiler or Centrally Ducted Forced Air Furnace	or	or	\$1,000/unit
Wood Boiler or Centrally Ducted Forced Air Furnace	US EPA CRF PART 60 AAA	Less than 0.064 grams/MJ for total particulate matter	

*Must be installed or inspected by Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) Certified Installer/Inspector. Proof will be required.*

## Wood Burning Equipment – Additional Eligibility Criteria

- Rebates are not available for the replacement of working wood burning equipment. If replacing non-working wood burning equipment, you must obtain a letter/email from your contractor or insurance company stating your old system was non-functional.
- Systems installed outdoors are not eligible for rebates.

## Other Rebates

### Need help finding eligible products?

You can explore Natural Resources Canada's lists of ENERGY STAR® rated windows and doors here.

### Windows & Doors

Retrofit	Criteria	Available Rebates
Replacing a Window or Door Including the Frame	Must be ENERGY STAR® rated in Canada	\$30 per rough opening

ENERGY STAR® stickers must remain on windows and doors until after the final assessment.

### Ventilation

Retrofit	Criteria	Available Rebates
Air Sealing	Achieve the air sealing target identified in your recommendation upgrade report	\$200
Heat Recovery Ventilator	Install a new HVI certified heat or energy recovery ventilator or replace a non-HVI certified unit.	\$300

In some instances, performing air sealing may result in inadequate ventilation, which may be detrimental to the house and its occupants. Please seek additional information from your Registered Energy Advisor and a qualified ventilation contractor.

### Windows & Doors, and Ventilation – Additional Eligibility Criteria

- Window rebates are based on the rough opening, which is defined as the structurally framed space in an exterior wall intended for installing a window or door. For example, a bay window with three window units installed into one rough opening is eligible for only one rebate.

# Moderate Income Rebates

## Additional Criteria & Rebate Overview



**The Province of Nova Scotia's Moderate Income Rebate (MIR) program provides extra support to Nova Scotians on a moderate income.**

Through this program they can receive up to **\$10,000 in additional rebates** for qualifying upgrades, along with the previously specified **Home Energy Assessment Program rebates (\$5,000), totaling a potential of up to \$15,000.**

The MIR and HEA rebates may also be combined with the Oil to Heat Pump Affordability (OHPA) rebates described later in this guide, **totaling a potential of up to \$30,000.**

MIR participants must meet specific criteria, ***in addition to the general program criteria on page 4, including:***

- Participants must be pre-approved for MIR by Efficiency Nova Scotia [[APPLY HERE](#)]
- You own your home (demonstrated by proof of homeownership), it's your current primary residence and its primarily heated with non-electric sources (wood stoves are not considered a primary heating source).
- **Electrically heated homes are not eligible for MIR.**

**MIR participants are entitled to a free Home Energy Assessment. If the participant paid for their assessment upfront, the cost will be reimbursed when other rebates are issued.**

## Available MIR Incentives

Upgrade	Details
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# Insulation

## Need help? Planning Multiple Upgrades?

Speak with one of our Energy Solutions Advisors at **1-877-999-6035** or **info@efficiencyns.ca** to explore how to best maximize rebates across our programs.

### Exterior Wall Insulation

Area	Criteria	MIR Rebates Available (based on % area insulated)
Above Ground Exterior Walls	Add between R-3.8 & R-7.4 to existing insulation. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	\$240 - \$1,200
	Add R-7.5 or more to existing insulation. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	\$400 - \$2,000

*This rebate can be combined with the Home Energy Assessment rebate for exterior walls, see page 6.*

### Foundation Insulation

Area	Criteria	Available Rebates (based on % area insulated)
Basement Walls	Add between R-10 & R-22 to existing insulation. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	\$150 - \$750
	Add R-22 or more to existing insulation. Must insulate at least 20% of area.	\$300 - \$1,500
Crawlspace Walls & Header	Add between R-10 and R-22 to existing insulation. Must insulate 100% of area.	\$600
	Add R-22 or more to existing insulation. Must insulate 100% of area.	\$1,200
Floor Above Crawlspace	Add at least R-24 to existing insulation. Must insulate 100% of area.	\$300

*Rebates are determined by upgrade area percentage. For example, if your home is 80% basement and 20% crawlspace, and you upgrade both based on this rebate table, you will be eligible for 80% of the maximum basement wall rebate. If you only upgrade 50% of the basement walls, you would be eligible for 40% of the maximum basement wall rebate.*

*This rebate can be combined with the Home Energy Assessment rebate for basement walls, see page 7.*

### Additional Eligibility Criteria

- All materials will be reviewed based on nationally recognized thermal resistance values, especially if they are outside of the norm.
- For **semi-detached or end unit row homes**, foundation and exterior wall max rebates are 75% of the amount shown. For a middle unit row home, rebates are 50% of the max amounts shown. There are no rebates available for insulating shared interior walls.

# Heating Equipment

## Air Source Heat Pumps

System Type	Criteria	Available Rebates (based on newly added capacity)
Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump	Has a check mark under the appropriate program category on our <a href="#">heat pump list</a> .	\$1,000 per ton
Centrally Ducted Heat Pump	Has a check mark under the appropriate program category on our <a href="#">heat pump list</a> .	\$3,000 per ton

Must be installed by a certified Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic (RACM). This rebate can be combined with the Home Energy Assessment rebate for heat pumps, see page 8.

## Heat Pump Water Heaters

System Size	Product Standard	Energy Factor	Uniform Energy Factor	Available Rebates
Less Than 56 Gallons	ENERGY STAR®	At least 2.00 with a first hour rating of at least 50 gallons/hour	At least 2.00 with a first hour rating of at least 45 gallons/hour	\$500
At Least 56 Gallons		At least 2.20 with a first hour rating of at least 50 gallons/hour	At least 2.20 with a first hour rating of at least 45 gallons/hour	

Must be installed by a certified professional. This rebate can be combined with the Home Energy Assessment rebate for heat pumps, see page 8.

### Heat Pump – Additional Eligibility Criteria

The following systems are not eligible for rebate under the Moderate Income Rebate program:

- Replacement heat pumps, functioning or non-functioning.
- Ducted, compact ducted, mixed-ducted mini-splits.
- Any heat pump equipment installed in unconditioned space (i.e., ductwork through unconditioned attic spaces).

Heat pump rebates are based on the Rated Capacity in tons (47°F) and are pro-rated, based on the ton, with one ton equal to 12,000 BTU/h.

If a heat pump(s) is already installed in the home, rebates will be calculated based on the added capacity (newly added hp in tons – removed hp in tons = added capacity eligible for rebate).

## Wood Burning Equipment

Product Type	Certification	EPA or CSA Emissions	Available Rebates
Wood Stove	CSA-B415.1-10	Less than 2.5 grams/hour	\$500/unit
Pellet Stove	US EPA CRF PART 60 AAA	Less than 0.064 grams/ MJ for total particulate matter	

*Must be installed or inspected by Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) Certified Installer/Inspector. Documentation to prove this will be required. This rebate can be combined with the Home Energy Assessment rebate for wood burning equipment, see page 9.*

### Wood Burning Equipment – Additional Eligibility Criteria

- Rebates are not available for the replacement of working equipment. If replacing non-working wood burning equipment, you must obtain a letter/email from your contractor or insurance company stating your old system was non-functional.
- Systems installed outdoors are not eligible for rebates.

# Oil to Heat Pump Affordability

## Additional Criteria & Rebate Overview



The Government of Canada's Oil to Heat Pump Affordability (OHPA) program provides up to \$15,000 to eligible homeowners for the purchase and installation of an eligible whole home heat pump system and any of the following associated eligible measures related to the heat pump installation:

- Decommissioning and/or the safe removal of an oil tank.
- Necessary electrical and mechanical upgrades to your home for the new heat pump system. For example, panel upgrades and any associated home re-writing as required by law.
- Installation of outdoor piping loops for ground source heat pumps.
- Converting other oil-fired appliances to electric. Contact [info@efficiencyns.ca](mailto:info@efficiencyns.ca) for approval first.

**Eligible homeowners may combine OHPA rebates (up to \$15,000) with the Province of Nova Scotia's Moderate Income Rebate (\$10,000) and Home Energy Assessment Program (\$5,000), totaling a potential of up to \$30,000.**

**OHPA participants must meet specific criteria, *in addition to the general program criteria on page 4, including:***

- Participants must be approved for OHPA by Efficiency Nova Scotia [[APPLY HERE](#)]. Upon approval participants will be further instructed on the option to have up to \$15,000 of their eligible incentives pre-paid directly to their contractor(s).
- Participants will have 6 months to complete their upgrades from the date of receiving approval from Efficiency Nova Scotia
- Home must be primarily **oil heated**, consuming at least 500L in the previous 12 months, demonstrated by proof of oil purchases. For help understanding your primary heating source see the Electrically Heated Home Definition [here](#).
- OHPA participants are entitled to a free Home Energy Assessment. If the participant paid for their assessment upfront, the cost will be reimbursed when other rebates are issued.
- Applicants who are approved for the Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Program in Nova Scotia will receive a one-time payment of \$250 from Natural Resources Canada. This payment will automatically be mailed to you after your pre-approval into the program.



## Air Source Heat Pumps

System Type	Criteria
Mini-Split Heat Pump (Ductless or Ducted)	Has a check mark under the appropriate program category on our <a href="#">heat pump list</a> .
Centrally Ducted Heat Pump	Has a check mark under the appropriate program category on our <a href="#">heat pump list</a> .

*Must be installed by a certified Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic (RACM). Ducted and mixed ducted mini-splits are only eligible under OHPA and will not receive MIR or HEA Rebates. See page 8 for more details.*

*This rebate can be combined with the Home Energy Assessment rebate for heat pumps, see page 8. It cannot be combined with the Canada Greener Homes Grant.*

## Geothermal Heat Pump

Please refer to this [website](#) for eligible ground source heat pumps.

### OHPA – Additional Eligibility Criteria

- Replacement of existing heat pumps are eligible for Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Rebates.
- To qualify for any OHPA incentives **you must install an eligible cold climate heat pump**. Incentives will not be issued for projects where only domestic hot water or electricals are upgraded.
- **Heat distribution:** The Oil to Heat Pump Affordability program requires that the eligible heat pump system be capable of distributing heat throughout the entire conditioned space in the house, including the basements where the distance from the top of the floor slab to the bottom of the ceiling joist is 1.8 m or more. This applies regardless of whether the eligible heat pump system is a central ducted, mini- or multi-split ducted or ductless system.
- For a typical house, this usually requires a minimum of one warm air supply outlet or indoor head per floor, including each level of a split-level, mezzanine level, etc., of each dwelling unit in the building. In some instances, more than one warm air supply outlet and/or indoor head per floor may be required to ensure heat distribution to the entire home or building.
- The mechanical system contractor is responsible for sizing, recommending and installing the new eligible heat pump system based on the contractor's heating load calculations.
- **Attestation form for contractors and ground source heat pumps:** It is mandatory under the Oil to Heat Pump Affordability program that you have your mechanical system contractor sign an [attestation form](#) confirming that the heat pump is capable of distributing heat throughout the entire house. For ground source heat pump installations, it is mandatory that you have your contractor attest that the installation has been completed according to the latest version of the CSA C448 Standard – Design and Installation of Ground Source Heat Pump Systems.
- Invoices should be detailed with different measures and their costs broken out individually. Example invoice is included on page 17.

# Customer Invoice Example

Efficiency Nova Scotia requires copies of your paid contractor invoices and any other receipts applicable to rebate eligible upgrades. You will need to supply these documents to your Registered Energy Advisor at your final Home Energy Assessment.

To avoid unnecessary delays with rebate processing, please ensure your invoice contains the information outlined in the invoice example below, as applicable to your project.

Installer Contact Name Company Name Street Address City, Postal Code Phone	Date Invoice Number Installation Date
Customer Name Street Address City, Postal Code Phone	

Quantity	Description		Unit Price
1	Insulation <small>Area insulated Starting R-value</small>	Final R-value Air sealing work	\$X,XXX.XX
1	Ductless Mini-split Heat Pump <small>New or replacement unit(s) Location(s) of indoor unit(s) Manufacturer(s) Full Outdoor Model(s)</small>	Full Indoor Model(s) Furnace Model (applicable to central systems) AHRI Number(s)	\$X,XXX.XX
1	Wood Stove <small>WETT certification Manufacturer Model number</small>		\$X,XXX.XX
2	ENERGY STAR® windows <small>Manufacturer(s) Energy Ratings NRCAN Reference Number Energy Efficiency Verification Reference U-factors</small>		\$X,XXX.XX
1	Labour		\$X,XXX.XX
	Subtotal		\$X,XXX.XX
	HST855555555555		\$X,XXX.XX
	Total Due		\$XX,XXX.XX
	Balance		\$0 (paid in full)

## Installer Certification Credentials

Technician Name  
 RACM Certificate Number for Heat Pumps  
 WETT Certificate Number for Wood Burning Equipment  
 Other Applicable Credentials

