

NEWS RELEASE

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REBATES DOUBLED FOR HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SMITHS FALLS, ON - The Ontario government has announced matching dollar for dollar rebates on home energy upgrades, doubling the rebates available through the federal government's EcoEnergy Retrofit program.

"There isn't a better time than now to take action," says Susan Brandum, manager of the Rideau Environmental Action League, which delivers two programs to help people reduce their household energy use throughout the counties of Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville.

Our individual practices are responsible for about 45% of Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions. More than 20% of that comes from heating and cooling our homes.

If you replace an old furnace, you could get a total rebate of between \$600 and \$1,200. Replace an old wood stove with an EPA, and get \$600 back. Install a heat recovery ventilator and get \$600. Adding insulation could get you thousands of dollars back. Installing a solar hot-water preheater rebates \$1,000.

"This is a win-win-win plan. Not only do you get money back, you'll save money into the future as energy costs rise. And, you show our governments how important energy and climate change are to you by taking advantage of these programs," she added.

Under the old EnerGuide for Houses program, which focused mainly on insulation and air sealing, the average homeowner who completed the recommendations reduced their heating bills by 27% per year, or \$750 per year, every year. With the new rebate additions, average annual savings are expected to be closer to \$1,000 per year.

To get the rebates, you must have an initial EcoEnergy audit, implement the recommendations of the auditor within 18 months and have a second audit to verify completion of the work.

REAL's Certified Energy Assessor, a professional with 20 years experience and training in household energy efficiency, will spend about 2 hours with you conducting the audit and advising on actions, then send you a detailed report with specific, cost-effective recommendations for your house.

REAL is a volunteer-run, environmental non-profit based in Smiths Falls. It offers these programs to help us all reduce our impact on the natural environment.

For more detail, go to the federal government's EcoEnergy Home Retrofit site and the Ontario government's Ministry of Energy website.

Office of Energy Efficiency:

www.oeec.nrcan.gc.ca/residential/personal/retrofit-homes/retrofit-qualify-grant.cfm?attr=4

Ministry of Energy:

www.energy.gov.on.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=conservation.homeretrofit

For more information, to schedule an EcoEnergy audit or to apply for the EEAPH special electricity program, contact REAL at 613-283-9500 or go to www.REALaction.ca

(SIDEBAR)

Special Limited-Income Electricity Program

For people who live in privately owned, electrically heated houses or apartments, and who are on limited incomes, REAL has a special program. If you pay your own electricity bills, use electricity to heat, do not live in social housing, are a recipient of a social support or earn less than \$32,500/year for one person, \$34,000 for two people, then REAL can likely help. Their energy assessor will conduct a free audit to determine exactly where electricity savings can be found, then hire and pay qualified contractors to do the insulation, air sealing, repairs and other work such as replacing refrigerators that save substantial amounts of electricity. They can invest up to \$5,000 in a home.

The cheapest energy you can buy is the energy you don't use.

The Energy Efficiency Assistance Program for Houses (EEAPH) is specially designed to reduce electricity use, and demand on Ontario's electricity grid, by retrofitting the homes of limited-income people. "The Ontario Power Authority is investing in conservation because it is cheaper than investing in new power production. And, they're doing this in the homes of the people who need help the most," said Brandum.

(GRAPHIC)

Source: Natural Resources Canada

http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/posters/on/on_09_e.php

