

Commercial Boiler Program Common Questions & Answers

What is the SaskEnergy Commercial Boiler Program?

The Commercial Boiler Program is designed to encourage the use of high-efficiency natural gas hydronic space-heating systems and high efficiency variable speed intelligent circulating pumps in commercial new construction and retrofits. Available through SaskEnergy Commercial Network Members located across Saskatchewan, the program provides incentives based on the incremental price of a natural gas condensing boiler and high efficiency circulating pump(s) over the purchase price of a standard-efficiency boiler and single speed pump(s). Incentives are based upon space-heating, ventilating and domestic hot water load and type of equipment installed.

How long is this program available?

This program is available until November 30, 2013. All applications must be received by the November 30, 2013 deadline and the boiler plant must be purchased and installed within 12 months of the date that SaskEnergy approved the application.

Why are you offering commercial incentives?

We know there are many businesses that could benefit from upgrading to high efficiency boilers and pumps.

This program is designed to encourage commercial property owners to choose the most energy efficient boiler equipment available to maximize their energy and cost savings and reduce emissions into the environment.

How much could our property save by upgrading to a condensing boiler system with high efficiency pumps?

Customers may save up to 40% in natural gas costs by upgrading to the most efficient boiler equipment available. Additional savings may also be realized if the boilers are also used for domestic water heating.

High efficiency variable speed intelligent pumps (circulators) have been shown to reduce electrical consumption by up to 60% over standard single speed pumps.

What boilers qualify under this program?

The list of eligible condensing boilers that qualify under this program is developed by Natural Resources Canada and FortisBC. The list is available on the SaskEnergy website at saskenergy.com or from any Commercial Network Member.

The Eligible Boiler List is only to be used as a guide for builders, developers, building owners, mechanical consultants and Commercial Network Members. Please consult with SaskEnergy, Customer Solutions if you have any questions on qualifying equipment.

The list is not exhaustive and may be amended or modified at any time without notice.

Although a boiler that is the subject of an application may be on the list, SaskEnergy reserves the right to refuse any application made by the customer to the Commercial Boiler Program.

SaskEnergy makes no representations, warranties or guarantees regarding any of the boilers or their purported efficiency ratings and does not endorse the use of any particular boiler.

The boiler I'm interested in is not on the eligible list. What do I need to do to have a boiler added to the list?

Eligible boilers are determined by Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) and FortisBC. Boilers must be independently tested under specific guidelines and meet specific efficiency ratings. As well, boilers over 300,000 Btu/hr must be covered by a standard or optional minimum two year parts and labour warranty.

Local distributors can contact the boiler manufacturer to see if they are already working towards having their product line added to NRCAN's list of eligible boilers. SaskEnergy, Customer Solutions would be pleased to work with you regarding product eligibility.

Why is there now an incentive offered for certain types of pumps?

High efficiency variable speed intelligent pumps (circulators) have been shown to reduce electrical consumption by up to 60% over standard single speed pumps. The incentive has been designed to reduce the incremental cost of these pumps.

My boiler installation was approved under the previous Commercial Boiler Program, the installation is not complete and I would like receive an incentive for the installation of a high efficiency pump. Is this possible?

Yes, all applications approved in 2011 where the boiler installation has not yet been completed may be eligible for the pump(s) incentive. Pre-approval is required, so you must provide SaskEnergy Customer Solutions with information about the qualifying pumps(s) for your application prior to installation.

After the installation is completed, final paperwork must include information regarding the qualifying pump(s) as outlined in the 2012- 2013 program terms and conditions. Documentation must include brand, model, quantity, function of pump(s) in system and the copy of the customer's invoice must itemize the pump costs separate from the boiler costs.

There are multiple pumps associated with my boiler system. Can I have them all replaced and receive the incentive for each one?

Probably not. The high efficiency pumps that are encouraged through this program achieve electricity savings in applications where there are variable flow requirements. The same savings are not achievable in applications where pumps simply turn on and off.

An incentive will be paid for one high efficiency pump for each zone of space heating in the building. Incentives will not be paid for high efficiency pumps installed in applications where the pumps are redundant or are not subject to variable flow. For example, pumps used to provide flow between a boiler and an indirect domestic hot water tank may be set up to operate in an on/off fashion. This pump application would not result in variable flow, significant savings would not be achieved, and an incentive would not be approved.

If you are unsure if a pump application qualifies, contact a SaskEnergy Commercial Network Member or SaskEnergy Customer Solutions.

Do Network Members offer financing options in addition to the incentives?

Commercial Network Members offer leasing services for the purchase and installation of commercial heating & cooling equipment. In many cases, the increase in efficiency can provide enough savings to offset a large portion of the lease payments, making this an attractive option for many businesses.

What types of building qualify under the program?

The program is targeted towards medium and larger sized commercial buildings. Examples of qualifying buildings would include stores, offices, municipal buildings, churches, community halls, not-for profit organizations, apartment and condominium buildings, dental clinics, and larger agricultural buildings.

We receive provincial funding for our property? Do we qualify?

This program does not apply to buildings that are directly or indirectly, owned or operated by or receive their primary funding from the Province of Saskatchewan (e.g. hospitals, schools, government departments and ministries and Crown Corporations).

Why don't provincially funded buildings qualify?

This program is targeted to encourage commercial building owners to invest in high efficiency equipment that costs significantly more than standard equipment. The incentive is to bring the payback within an acceptable range for those businesses.

Provincially funded buildings such as schools, universities or hospitals accept a longer payback period, making it economical for them to invest in higher efficient equipment without incentives.

How many commercial customers does SaskEnergy serve?

SaskEnergy serves just over 38,000 commercial customers throughout Saskatchewan. Of those customers, it is estimated that approximately 7,600 of these customers use boilers to heat their facilities.

How many commercial properties do you expect to participate in this new program?

Based on recent survey information and the number of boiler installations over the last number of years, we expect that approximately 100 commercial customers will take advantage of the program.

Why is SaskEnergy investing in this program?

SaskEnergy wants to ensure that commercial customers purchase the most energy efficient equipment available for their heating application. Boiler systems are a significant investment, and with regular maintenance, can last for 30 to 40 years.

Standard boilers are available that have a minimum efficiency of 82%. Condensing boilers have steady-state combustion efficiencies from 88% to 98%.

By choosing a more efficient option, customers could benefit from an extra 10% or more in efficiency. It is good for both energy savings and the environment to encourage commercial customer to choose the most efficient equipment available.

I don't qualify for this program, are there any other programs available that I could use?

The Federal government has, in the past, offered programs to assist commercial customers in improving the energy efficiency of their buildings. To determine if there are Federal programs available, check the following web site: <http://www.ecoaction.gc.ca/>.

Customers are eligible to use Federal programs in addition to the Commercial Boiler Program. The participant is required to declare intention to participate in more than one program when applying for the Commercial Boiler Program.

If other incentive programs are offered by SaskEnergy or the Province of Saskatchewan for boilers, participants are not eligible to participate in more than one program for boilers at the same location. However, participants are eligible to participate in the Commercial Boiler Program while using leasing options offered by Commercial Network Members.

This program helps the larger commercial customers - is there any other SaskEnergy programs to assist smaller commercial properties?

The Commercial HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) Program is targeted towards small to medium sized commercial buildings. It is designed to encourage the use of high-efficiency natural gas furnaces, boilers, and rooftop units in commercial retrofit and new applications.

Available through participating SaskEnergy Commercial & Residential Network Members located across Saskatchewan, the program provides incentives based on the incremental price of energy-efficient natural gas boilers, furnaces, and rooftop units. Incentives are based on the type and number of units installed.

Please visit www.saskenergy.com for full program details.

Does SaskEnergy profit from this program?

No, SaskEnergy does not profit from this program.

Why is the program offered only through the SaskEnergy Commercial Network?

This program is an extension of services offered by SaskEnergy Commercial Network Members throughout the province. Commercial Network Member criteria ensure consumer protection through appropriate levels of insurance coverage, performance bonding and warranty requirements.

What is the SaskEnergy Commercial Network?

SaskEnergy Commercial Network Members is a group of qualified commercial contractors that work together to introduce programs and services that expand our business and offer our commercial customers greater choice, flexibility and seamless customer service.

Qualifying criteria, such as ability to offer performance bonding, qualified trades people and warranty help to ensure consumer protection.

The SaskEnergy Commercial Network was formed through industry dialogue with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan (MCAS) and independent natural gas contractors. We welcome new members and SaskEnergy or MCAS would be happy to speak to any interested contractor about how to become part of the SaskEnergy Network.

Who participates at the Commercial Industry Dialogue table?

SaskEnergy, Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan (MCAS) and independent natural gas contractors work in partnership through a dialogue process to develop the Commercial Network and programs.

Who developed the guiding principles of the Commercial Network?

Membership criteria and guidelines were developed and endorsed by members of the Commercial Industry Dialogue table, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan Board of Directors and SaskEnergy.

My mechanical contractor is not a Network Member. Why isn't their company allowed to participate in this program?

We would be pleased to talk to any contractor about the business and customer benefits of Network membership, as well as the qualification criteria established in consultation with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan.

How does a mechanical contractor become a member of the Commercial Network?

Interested mechanical contractors can contact Judy Nagus at the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan at 306-664-2154 or SaskEnergy Customer Solutions at 306-777-9460. We would be pleased to discuss membership with you and can forward you an application for membership.

What do I do if there are no Commercial Network Members in my community?

Commercial Network members regularly do work throughout the province no matter which community their office is located in.