

Questions and Answers
Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses (SEGH) Program
April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2011

1. What is Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses?

Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses was developed in cooperation with Natural Resources Canada to help you make choices that will improve the comfort and energy efficiency of your home. Independent advisors, certified by Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), are available to determine how your home is using energy and where it is being wasted.

Provincial grants are currently available for homeowners who complete specific energy efficiency upgrades based on the results of their SEGH evaluation.

2. What are the effective dates for the program?

The Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses program is available from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2011. Homeowners participating must have their final (post-retrofit evaluation) completed by March 31, 2011. Make sure to call your Service Organization early to book your post-retrofit evaluation to ensure that they can schedule your appointment prior to your end date.

3. How much grant money are homeowners eligible for under the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses program?

The Province wants to ensure strong incentives are available for homeowners who invest in making energy efficiency improvements to their home. Therefore, homeowners will be eligible for a maximum provincial grant of up to \$5,000.

4. On March 31, 2010, the Government of Canada announced they are no longer offering the ecoENERGY Retrofit program to new applicants. What if I had my pre-retrofit evaluation done by a Service Organization before this date?

If you had your pre-retrofit evaluation done prior to March 31, 2010, you are eligible for both the federal and provincial grants. You must have the post-retrofit evaluation completed 18 months from the pre-retrofit evaluation date or by March 31, 2011, whichever comes first. Make sure to call your Service Organization early to book your post-retrofit evaluation to ensure that they can schedule your appointment prior to your end date. ****Note:** No post-retrofit evaluations will be accepted after March 31, 2011.

If you have questions about the recent changes to the ecoENERGY Retrofit program, contact Natural Resources Canada at 1-800-O-CANADA (1-800-622-6232) or check their website at oe.nrcan.gc.ca.

5. What's on the list of improvements that will qualify for a grant?

In addition to heating and ventilation system upgrades, insulation, air sealing and draft proofing, eligible retrofits include: upgrading air conditioning, water heating systems such as tankless hot water heaters, solar hot water systems, and drain water heat recovery systems, as well as water conservation recommendations such as low flow or dual flush toilets. For a complete list of eligible retrofits, visit saskenergy.com.

6. What is the average grant amount?

It is estimated that the average provincial grant is about \$1,160

7. What do you expect will be the average saving for homeowners in terms of reduced energy consumption and lower costs?

It is estimated that the average savings for homeowners will be up to \$950 annually and they will reduce their home's greenhouse gas emissions by up to 4 tonnes per year depending on the retrofits they complete.

8. How is the grant calculated?

Each recommendation provided as a result of the pre-retrofit evaluation will have an assigned grant amount. For example, if you replace an old standard furnace with a new ENERGY STAR® qualified natural gas furnace that is at least 94% efficient (AFUE) with a brushless DC motor you qualify for a provincial grant of \$630. A homeowner will know up-front how much each improvement will provide in grants, so they will be better able to decide on priority improvements.

9. Do I receive an EnerGuide rating on my home?

Yes. In addition to the recommendations that indicate the grant amounts, the energy advisor will provide you with an EnerGuide rating and label for your home, before and after the renovations.

10. I am thinking of making some changes to my home how do I qualify for the provincial grant?

Here are the steps in the process:

Step 1

- Contact a licensed SEGH service organization to book a pre-retrofit evaluation ("D" audit). There is a cost for the evaluation, please discuss the evaluation costs with the service organization including mileage if applicable.

Step 2

- The service organization will come to your house and complete the evaluation. The evaluation will tell you how certain upgrades or new equipment will reduce your energy and/or water consumption saving you money over the long term. The evaluation also provides information on how much of a grant you will be eligible to receive for each recommended improvement you make.

Step 3

- You have until March 31, 2011, to complete the recommended improvements and the post-retrofit evaluation. You can complete any or all options outlined in the recommendations.

Step 4

- A post-retrofit evaluation ("E" audit) must be completed to qualify for a grant. Book an evaluation with the same SEGH service organization that completed your initial evaluation prior to the March 31, 2011 deadline. Make sure to call your Service

Organization early to book your post-retrofit evaluation to ensure that they can schedule your appointment prior to March 31, 2011.

Step 5

- The service organization will submit the file to Natural Resources Canada who calculates the grant amount and then sends this information to SaskEnergy. You don't need to do anything else - the grant will be mailed to you within 90 days of your post-retrofit evaluation from SaskEnergy, who is administering the program on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan.

11. Who does the pre- and post-retrofit evaluations?

There are three licensed service organizations in Saskatchewan who provide this service: they are Sun Ridge Group, AmeriSpec and Energy Wise Solutions.

Sun Ridge Group

Regina, Saskatoon and all communities throughout Saskatchewan

call toll-free 1-800-667-3700 or book online at sunridgegroup.ca

AmeriSpec

Regina and south of Davidson - **call (306) 565-1703**

Saskatoon and north of Davidson - **call (306) 652-8779**

Battlefords and Lloydminster - **call (866) 871-8111**

Prince Albert and northeast - **call (306) 862-2797**

Energy Wise Solutions

Regina, Saskatoon and surrounding area

call (306) 291-8075 or 1-877-787-4328 or book online at energywisesolutions.ca

12. What is the cost of the pre-retrofit and post-retrofit evaluation?

The provincial government will subsidize half the cost of the pre-retrofit evaluation and half the cost of the post-retrofit evaluation. Please contact one of the service organizations for their current pricing.

Your initial investment is easily recovered in savings after implementing the home improvements outlined in the pre-retrofit evaluation report. As well, if you make the recommended changes, you may be eligible for a grant that more than covers your evaluation cost.

13. If my furnace breaks down during the heating season, can I replace this equipment before the pre-retrofit assessment?

Effective October 1, 2010 until February 28, 2011

Yes, in the case of an emergency furnace replacement during the period noted above, the property owner **must call a service organization within five (5) calendar days of the system replacement to schedule a pre-retrofit evaluation, and the evaluation must take place within 30 days of the new furnace installation. The equipment installed must be at least 92% AFUE or better (Oil-furnaces must be at least 85% AFUE or better) and qualify under the [Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses – List of Eligible Improvements](#).**



In order to qualify for a grant, you must keep sufficient information regarding the old heating system (see eligibility criteria and process below).

Calling a service organization later than five (5) calendar days after the heating equipment has been replaced will not be considered for a retrofit grant.

Eligibility criteria

1. The heating system must have been 'red tagged' or deemed unsafe by the utility, service technician or building inspector; or,
2. The heating system cannot be repaired and must be replaced.

Process for qualifying for a grant:

Please read and follow these instructions carefully.

A copy of your invoice for the new furnace should include the following information and given to the energy advisor at the time of the pre-retrofit evaluation:

1. Supplier's business name, address and phone number
2. Date of installation
3. Manufacturer's name and model number of heating equipment; and
4. The AFUE of the product or a note indicating that it is ENERGY STAR qualified

The heating contractor must provide you with information about the equipment being removed, and you must give this information to the energy advisor at the time of the pre-retrofit evaluation:

- Fuel type (natural gas, propane or oil)
- Type of system (forced air, hydronic/radiant or combo)
- Type of venting (e.g. chimney, side vent, barometric damper)
- Manufacturer's name and model number of heating equipment
- Rated efficiency, output, input from the nameplate
- Last upgrade, if any (e.g. oil burner gun/assembly)

14. What types of residential dwellings are eligible under the program?

Low-rise residential properties defined as dwellings under Parts 2 and 9 of the National Building Code of Canada. These include single detached and attached homes (i.e. row housing, duplexes and triplexes), small multi-unit residential buildings including some small apartment buildings of three storeys or less built on a maximum footprint of less than 600 square meters, and mobile homes on a permanent foundation.

15. Are small commercial businesses eligible to receive a grant?

Small mix-used commercial/residential buildings are eligible. These buildings must be no more than three storeys above grade, have a building footprint of 600 square metres or less and use at least 50% of the floor space for permanent residential purposes.

Mixed-use buildings that contain commercial or industrial equipment or systems that are not usually found in a dwelling are excluded.

Examples of mixed-use buildings that may qualify: buildings that contain non-residential spaces without commercial or industrial equipment, such as a clinic, travel agency, bed and breakfast, bookstore, office or hair salon.

Examples of mixed-used buildings that do not qualify: buildings that contain non-residential spaces with commercial or industrial equipment, such as a restaurant with commercial stoves, a grocery store or convenience store with commercial freezers, coolers or a Laundromat with commercial washers and dryers.

To determine if your facility is eligible, please contact a Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses service organization.

16. Do homes of any age qualify?

Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses was designed to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing homes. There is no restriction as to the age of an existing house or building but those built before 1985 will benefit the most as they have the potential for more significant energy improvements.

17. Why do I need to have an SEGH evaluation done? Why can't I just make my upgrades and send in the receipts?

There are many benefits to be gained from the evaluations. An EnerGuide for Houses advisor provides you with a detailed report on how to economically improve your home's air tightness, comfort and energy use. The report also provides a rating for your house. This rating provides a starting point to determine the amount of energy you currently use and the best changes you can make to reduce your costs and improve your home's EnerGuide rating.

18. I already started my renovations. Can I still apply for a grant?

Unfortunately, renovations started prior to completing a pre-retrofit evaluation are not eligible for a grant.

19. My air conditioning system stopped working. Can I replace it now and have my pre-retrofit evaluation completed later?

If your window or central air conditioning system breaks, a pre-retrofit evaluation **MUST** be performed **BEFORE** replacing your cooling equipment. If your air conditioner is replaced before your pre-retrofit evaluation it will not qualify for a grant.

20. Can I do the retrofit work myself and still be eligible for a grant?

Yes, provided you receive a pre-retrofit evaluation before you begin your upgrades and a post-retrofit evaluation after your upgrades are completed. It is important to keep invoices for materials purchased as you may be asked to submit copies. You are responsible for obtaining necessary permits that meet all municipal and provincial requirements.

21. My 18 month timeframe to complete my renovations and have my post-retrofit evaluation is about to expire but I still need more time. What can I do?

If you have completed some of your retrofits it is recommended that you have your post-retrofit evaluation done and receive your grants for the work that you have completed. If you choose to do additional retrofits the post-retrofit evaluation will be used as a baseline and you will then have until March 31, 2011 to complete the work. Make sure to call early to book your post-retrofit evaluation and avoid the last minute rush.

If you have not completed any retrofits due to circumstances beyond your control, contact your service organization to discuss options available.

22. What if I received a grant previously but would like to make additional upgrades in my home?

If you completed a post-retrofit evaluation ("E" audit) you can re-enter the program.

Contact the service organization to notify them that you are looking at doing additional retrofits. You will have until March 31, 2011, to have a second post-retrofit evaluation ("F" audit) and be eligible for further incentives. Make sure to call your Service Organization early to book your post-retrofit evaluation to ensure that they can schedule your appointment prior to March 31, 2011.

The maximum grant amount per household is \$5,000 from the Province of Saskatchewan. If you re-enter the program, the total grant amount that you receive will not exceed \$5,000.

23. Is there help available to pay for renovations?

SaskEnergy Network Members offer financing for the purchase and installation of heating, ventilation, cooling and domestic water systems. Contact your local Network Member for information on applicable financing rates. A list of Network Members is available on the SaskEnergy website saskenergy.com, on the Network Member page.

If you have not yet started your renovations, low-income homeowners may apply for the Homeowner Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (Homeowner RRAP) from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) instead of through ecoENERGY/EnerGuide Retrofit – Homes. Based on your income, house value and postal code, you could be eligible to receive financial assistance for upcoming necessary repairs. For more information, call 1-800-668-2642 or visit cmhc.gc.ca

24. I don't heat with natural gas. Can I still qualify?

Yes, you still qualify. It doesn't matter what fuel you use to heat your home, you can have an EnerGuide for Houses evaluation. A service advisor will complete the pre-retrofit evaluation and provide recommendations specific to your home.

25. What about homes on reserve and owned by the First Nation?

Yes, they are eligible for the SEGH program. The Band is considered the landlord, and the Band is eligible to have the SEGH pre and post evaluations completed and apply for the retrofit grants. First Nations customers who own homes are eligible to apply as well.

26. What if my home is in a rural or northern area?

The Province wants people all across the province to be able to take advantage of the program. The service organizations provide evaluations to homeowners in all areas, however mileage charges may apply. If you have friends or family in your immediate area that are interested in having an evaluation booked, the service organizations will try and schedule them at the same time so travel costs can be shared making it more economical for all.

27. I own rental properties, are these eligible?

Yes. Single family homes and multiple-unit low-rise residential buildings held by rental property owners are eligible provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

28. I own a cottage / recreational property. Is this eligible?

In order to qualify for a grant, the recreational property must be a fully-serviced four season property, meeting the specific definitions under the National Building Code, parts 2 and 9. The recreational property does not have to be a primary residence.

29. Are the grants I receive under this program taxable?

No, they are not taxable.

30. Do you share program administration with the federal government?

Yes, we share program administration with Natural Resources Canada. This allows us to minimize our costs, ensures that homeowners receive consistent information, and issue grants as quickly as possible.