

Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses (SEGH)

April 1st, 2011 to October 31st, 2013

1. What is Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses?

Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses (SEGH) was developed in cooperation with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to help you make choices that will improve the comfort and energy efficiency of your home. Independent energy advisors, certified by 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 evaluations.

2. Why is the Province continuing the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses program until 2013?

The Saskatchewan government is committed to the environment and it is demonstrated by the renewal of the EnerGuide for Houses program as part of the Go Green plan. This program has been instrumental in demonstrating the Province's commitment to Go Green by helping Saskatchewan homeowners 'Go Green' in their day-to-day lives.

The Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses Program has provided grants to over 38,000 households for energy retrofits. These retrofits have resulted in an annual reduction of approximately 112,000 tonnes of CO₂ from the air; a reduction roughly equivalent to permanently removing 20,350 cars from the road.

The new Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses program, built off of a solid foundation from the existing program, has been enhanced to encourage homeowners to upgrade to the most efficient equipment available and to undertake comprehensive renovations that will make a significant impact in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lower the homeowner's energy costs.

3. What are the effective dates for the new program?

Effective April 1, 2011, homeowners can have a pre-retrofit evaluation completed and enter the program up to June 30, 2013. They must complete their retrofits and have their post-retrofit evaluation completed within 18 months or by October 31, 2013 whichever comes first.

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

Homeowners are eligible for a maximum provincial grant of up to \$5,000 per property under the new program. This program encourages homeowners to adopt energy efficiency best practices, which they may deem unaffordable in the absence of a grant.

5. If I participate in the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses program do I qualify for a grant under the federal ecoENERGY Retrofit program?

You may be eligible for a federal grant as well. However, eligibility criteria and qualifying retrofits are different between the provincial and federal grant programs. Homeowners are encouraged to visit ecoaction.gc.ca or call 1-800-O-CANADA (1-800-622-6232) to determine whether or not they qualify for a federal grant.

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

High efficiency upgrades to your home's heating and ventilation systems and insulation are eligible for a grant. In addition, other eligible retrofits include replacing your air conditioning system, water heating systems such as tankless and solar options, ENERGY STAR® doors, windows, light fixtures, clothes washer and a gas dryer. Visit saskenergy.com for a complete list of eligible retrofits and the corresponding grant amount.

7. What is the estimated average grant amount?

It is estimated that the average provincial grant will be approximately \$1,250.

8. 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 home will reduce their energy consumption by over 20 percent and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 3 tonnes per house, this may vary depending on the retrofits completed.

9. 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 95% efficient (AFUE) with a brushless DC motor you qualify for a provincial grant of \$650. As a homeowner you will know up-front how much the grant is for each improvement, to help you prioritize your retrofits.

10. 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, both before and after the retrofits are completed.

11. How do I qualify for the SEGH grant?

The following steps MUST be performed in order to be eligible for a grant:

Step 1

- Contact a licensed SEGH service organization to book a pre-retrofit evaluation. The latest date to have a pre-retrofit evaluation completed is June 30th, 2013. There is a cost for the evaluation, please discuss the evaluation costs with the service organization at the time of booking, including mileage if applicable. The Province of Saskatchewan pays for ½ the cost of the pre-retrofit evaluation, up to \$150, to reduce the upfront cost to homeowners. The service organization will only charge you the difference.

Step 2

- An energy advisor will come to your house and perform an energy evaluation, consisting of a basement to attic overall review of your home and a blower door test to measure air tightness and help locate air leakage. Your energy advisor is required to take pictures of your home and specific equipment during the pre-retrofit evaluation. You will receive a homeowner report approximately two weeks after your evaluation with a list of recommended measures, eligible grant amounts, and an EnerGuide rating label specific to your home.

Step 3

- You have 18 months from the date of your pre-retrofit evaluation or until October 31st, 2013, whichever comes first, to complete your retrofits and have your post-retrofit evaluation completed. You can complete any or all of the recommendations outlined in the homeowner report.

Step 4

- A post-retrofit evaluation 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 18 month deadline or October 31st, 2013, whichever comes first. Make sure to call your Service Organization early to book a post-retrofit evaluation to ensure they can schedule your appointment prior to the deadline. Be sure to have your SEGH file number available when you call (it is located on your homeowner report).
- An energy advisor will come to your house and perform a new energy evaluation, reviewing the changes you made and will retest you home using the blower door test to measure air tightness after your retrofits. You will receive a new EnerGuide rating label that reflects the improvements that you made to the overall efficiency of your home.
- The Province of Saskatchewan also pays for ½ the cost of the post-retrofit evaluation, up to \$100, to reduce the cost to homeowners. The service organization will only charge you the difference.

Step 5

- The service organization will submit the file to Natural Resources Canada who processes the file and then sends the 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.

Note: Your energy advisor is required to take pictures of your home and specific equipment during the pre- and post-retrofit evaluations. You need to retain all of your receipts for retrofits completed and they must be available at the post-retrofit evaluation.

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

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

Sun Ridge Group

Regina, Saskatoon and all communities throughout Saskatchewan
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**
Battleford's and Lloydminster areas - call **(866) 871-8111**
Prince Albert and northeast - call **(306) 862-2797**

Energywise Solutions

Regina, Saskatoon and other communities throughout Saskatchewan
Toll-free **1-888-860-1766** or book online at energywisesolutions.ca

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

The Province of Saskatchewan pays half the cost of the pre-retrofit evaluation, up to \$150, and half the cost of the post-retrofit evaluation, up to \$100. Please contact the service organizations for their current pricing and any mileage charges.

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, your eligible grant may be more than your combined evaluation costs.

14. Is there anything that I need to do to get ready for the pre-retrofit or post-retrofit evaluation?

The energy advisor will need access to every room in the house, including the attic and any crawl spaces. Be sure to clear the area around these areas before the energy advisor arrives. In addition, please make sure not to use any wood-burning appliances, such as fireplaces or wood stoves, at least 24 hours in advance and clean them prior to the evaluation.

15. 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, mobile homes on a permanent foundation, and recreational homes that are fully-serviced four-season properties.

16. 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 meters 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 where the non-residential space does not contain 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 where the non-residential space contains 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.

17. 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.

18. 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 independent certified energy advisor will provide you with a detailed report on how to economically improve your home's air tightness, comfort and energy use. The report provides recommendations on the most beneficial retrofits specifically for your home. The report also provides a rating for your house allowing you to compare the amount of energy you currently use with the most energy efficient retrofits to reduce your costs and improve your home's overall efficiency rating.

Many homeowners enter the program with upgrades in mind and once they meet with the energy advisor and review the homeowner report they typically make additional upgrades or change their priorities based on the independent advice they received from the certified energy advisor.



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

Effective from **September 15, 2011 to March 31, 2012.**

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 assessment, and the assessment must take place within 30 days of the new furnace installation. The equipment installed **must be at least 95% AFUE or better with a brushless DC motor.**

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. Heating equipment that has been 'red-tagged' or deemed unsafe by the utility, service technician or building inspector.
2. Heating equipment that cannot be repaired and must be replaced.

Process for qualifying for a grant:

Please read these instructions carefully.

Ensure your invoice for the new heating system includes the following information and is available to present to your 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 old heating system being removed, and you must give this information to the energy advisor at the time of the pre-retrofit evaluation:

1. Fuel Type (natural gas, propane, or oil)
2. Type of system (forced air, hydronic or radiant)
3. Type of venting (i.e. chimney, side vent, barometric damper)
4. Rated efficiency, output, input from the nameplate
5. Last upgrade, if any (i.e. oil burner gun/assembly)

When replacing a furnace, this may present an opportunity to replace an existing central air-conditioning unit. However, only the replacement of your inside coil may be possible in the heating season due to climate conditions. The replacement of the outside equipment may have to wait for warmer weather. You must remember that to capture all eligible measures for grant purposes, the performance of your post-retrofit assessment would have to wait until the replacement of both indoor and outdoor components is complete. The new equipment must meet the requirements listed in the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses "Chart of Eligible Retrofits". You will need to supply the following information about your existing air conditioning unit:

1. Capacity
2. Make and model number
3. Efficiency

IMPORTANT NOTE: The emergency furnace replacement policy (including central air-conditioning units) is available through both the **Provincial and Federal Programs**. Provincial and federal criteria differ so please ensure you check requirements for both.



20. If my hot water heater breaks down during the heating season, can I replace this equipment before the pre-retrofit assessment?

Effective from **September 15, 2011 to March 31, 2012.**

Yes, as with furnaces and other space heating systems, if your hot water heater breaks down during the period noted above, you can arrange an emergency replacement of this equipment. The property owner **must call a service organization within five (5) calendar days of the system replacement** to schedule a pre-retrofit assessment, and the assessment must take place within 30 days of the new furnace installation. The new equipment must meet the requirements listed in the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses "Chart of Eligible Retrofits"

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

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Water heating equipment that has been 'red-tagged' or deemed unsafe by the utility, service technician or building inspector.
2. Water heating equipment that cannot be repaired and must be replaced.

Process for qualifying for a grant:

Please read these instructions carefully.

Ensure your invoice for the new water heating system includes the following information and is available to present to your 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

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

1. Fuel Type
2. Type of system
3. Capacity (storage)
4. Efficiency
5. Make and model number
6. Confirmation with your energy advisor that the new equipment is eligible

IMPORTANT NOTE: The emergency water heater replacement policy is available through both the **Provincial and Federal Programs**. Provincial and federal criteria differ so please ensure you check requirements for both.

21. 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.

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

If your 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.

23. 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 provide copies. You are responsible for obtaining necessary permits that meet all municipal and provincial requirements.



24. What state must the home be in to have an energy evaluation?


In order to have an energy evaluation, the energy advisor needs to perform a blower door test which depressurizes the house and measures air leakage. The following are other conditions of the program:

- Heating: At a minimum, the house must have a space heating system in place at the time of the evaluation and it must be (or have been in the case of heating system failure) capable of keeping the interior living space at 21 degrees C.

- **Windows and doors:** The house must have all windows and doors in place. However, a maximum of one window or door unit can be missing as long as it is temporarily air sealed (e.g., covered with plywood and seams and edges sealed with caulking). Any broken window panes must be air sealed (e.g., taped polyethylene) for the duration of the blower door test.
- **Envelope:** If the temporary air sealing fails during the blower door test, the house will be considered ineligible. The building envelope, which includes the upper level ceilings, exterior walls, exposed floors, windows and doors must be intact, including the interior and exterior surfaces (i.e., the interior finish and exterior siding must be in place). Any renovations underway in rooms or sections of the house can only affect interior partitions and not perforate the building envelope.
- **Foundation:** The house must rest on its permanent foundation(s).
- **Power:** There must be a supply of standard AC electrical power available by which to operate the blower door test equipment. If power is not available from a utility, the homeowner must come to an agreement with the service organization about arranging for a suitable power supply.
- **Water and sewer:** There must be a functional supply of domestic water supplied by the municipality or from a private source such as a well or a cistern system. Sewer service must be provided by the municipality, a private septic system or a holding tank (outhouses and bio-toilets are permissible as toilets).
- **Operating kitchen:** The kitchen space must include: an operable sink (or appropriate rough-ins); an operating stove (no portable devices) or hook-ups (i.e., rough-in for electrical connection with dedicated breaker, gas appliance rough-in, or solid-fuel fired cook stove chimney); and a minimum of six square feet (0.5 square meters) of counter space or evidence of future intent to install a permanent counter (not just a kitchen table).

25. What if I add rooms or re-build my home after the pre-retrofit evaluation?

The SEGH program does not apply to new construction. If you have added additions or re-built your home, this is considered new construction and will not be eligible for a grant.



26. The provincial grant chart indicates that I must insulate a *minimum of 60 percent* of my home's total foundation area (including basement & crawlspace) in order to receive the incentive for foundation (basement and crawlspace) insulation. How do I determine whether or not I qualify?

The following example demonstrates how foundation grants are calculated under the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses program for homes that have both a crawlspace & a basement area.

Home Specifications:

Dimensions	50' x 25'
Floor Area	1250 ft ²
Basement Dimensions	30' x 25'
Basement Wall Height	8 ft
Crawl Space Dimensions	20' x 25'
Crawl Space Wall Height	4 ft

Calculations:

Basement wall area: $(30' + 30' + 25') \times 8' = 680 \text{ ft}^2$

Crawl Space Wall area: $(20' + 20' + 25') \times 4' = 260 \text{ ft}^2$

Total foundation wall area: $680 + 260 = 940 \text{ ft}^2$

If you insulate 100% of the crawl space with R24, the wall area would equal 27.7% of the total foundation wall area: $(260 \text{ ft}^2 / 940 \text{ ft}^2) \times 100\% = 27.7\%$

- Because minimum combined (basement and crawlspace) insulation rate is 60% for the foundation (basement and crawlspace) insulation grant you would not qualify for a provincial foundation insulation grant

If you insulate 100% of the basement wall area that would equal a total foundation wall area of: $(680 \text{ ft}^2 / 940 \text{ ft}^2) \times 100\% = 72.3\%$

- At an insulation rate of R-24 you would qualify for:
\$723 provincial grant ($\$1,000 \times 72.3\%$)

If you insulate two basement walls totaling 440 ft^2 and the full crawl space of 260 ft^2 you would have insulated: $440 + 260 = 700 \text{ ft}^2$ or $(700 \text{ ft}^2 / 940 \text{ ft}^2) \times 100\% = 74.5\%$ of your foundation wall.

- At insulation rate of R-12** you would qualify for:
Basement: $(440 \text{ ft}^2 / 940 \text{ ft}^2) \times \$500 = \$234$
Crawl Space: $(260 \text{ ft}^2 / 940 \text{ ft}^2) \times \$400 = \underline{\$111}$
Combined Incentive: $\underline{\$345}$

**Grant amounts are taken from the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses "Chart of Eligible Retrofits" available at saskenergy.com under the "Saving Energy" section of the website.

27. I participated previously in the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses program, and have more retrofits I'd like to complete. Can I participate again and do I need to have another pre-retrofit evaluation completed?

Yes, you can participate again. Your Service Organization will review your old file to determine if they can use the previous information or if an in-home evaluation is required and provide the applicable cost. You will have 18 months from the date of your new pre-retrofit evaluation or until October 31st, 2013, whichever comes first, to complete your retrofits and have your post-retrofit evaluation done to be eligible for further incentives.

28. Under to previous EnerGuide for Houses program I had a pre-retrofit evaluation completed and completed some of my retrofits, however I never had a post-retrofit evaluation completed before March 31, 2011. Can I have my post-retrofit evaluation completed under this program and qualify for a grant?

No, you will not qualify for a grant unless your post-retrofit evaluation was completed by March 31, 2011. If you want to make additional changes, you can have a new pre-retrofit evaluation done in order to participate in the new program. Only changes that you make after the new pre-retrofit evaluation will qualify.

29. 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.

30. 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 SEGH evaluation. An energy advisor will complete the pre-retrofit evaluation and provide recommendations specific to your home.

31. 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-retrofit and post-retrofit evaluations completed and apply for the grants. First Nations customers who own homes are eligible to apply as well.

32. 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.

33. 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.

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

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

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

No, they are not taxable.

36. 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, ensure that homeowners receive consistent information, and that we can issue grants as quickly as possible.