

**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 and federal grants are 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.

**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. Recently, the Government of Canada announced they are increasing the grant amounts under the federal ecoENERGY- Homes program by 25%, effective March 30, 2009. Has the province increased their grant amounts as well?**

No. The eligible provincial grants under Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses remain the same as when they were initially announced in April 2007.

For more information on the new federal ecoENERGY Retrofit-grant amounts, contact NRCan by visiting [ecoaction.gc.ca](http://ecoaction.gc.ca) or call 1-800-O-CANADA (1-800-622-6232).

**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](http://visit.saskenergy.com).

**6. What is the average grant amount?**

It is estimated that the average grant is about \$2,080 (\$1,040 provincial and \$1,040 federal).



## **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 over 4 tonnes 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 \$1,420 in provincial and federal grants. 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. How do I qualify for the 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 18 months or until March 31, 2011, whichever comes first, 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 grants. Book an evaluation with the same SEGH service organization that completed your initial evaluation prior to the end of the 18-month period.

### **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 grants will be mailed to you within 90 days of

your post-retrofit evaluation. You will receive two cheques – one from SaskEnergy, who is administering the program on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, and one from NRCan.

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

At present, there are three licensed service organizations in Saskatchewan who provide this service: the 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](http://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  
Saskatoon and surrounding area  
**call 1-877-787-4328**

### 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. 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.

### 14. 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.

### **15. 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.

### **16. 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.

### **17. My furnace has suddenly been declared "non-operational" and I have to replace it immediately, but have not completed a pre-retrofit evaluation. Will I still be eligible to apply for a grant for the furnace replacement?**

The heating season which is in effect from October 15 to March 31 is the only time when it is acceptable to have your heating system replaced prior to the pre-retrofit evaluation. If your heating equipment is installed prior to the pre-retrofit evaluation outside of the dates indicated, you will not be eligible for a grant.

### **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 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 you 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 and you will 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 another 18 months or until March 31, 2011 (whichever comes first) to complete the work.

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. You will be given an additional 18 months or until March 31, 2011, (whichever comes first) from the time of your original post-retrofit evaluation to have a second post-retrofit evaluation ("F" audit) and be eligible for further incentives.

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

## 23. Is there help available to pay for renovations made before I apply for the grant?

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](http://saskenergy.com), on the Network Member page.

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

Yes, you will 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. Sun Ridge and AmeriSpec provide the service 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. Owners of multiple residential buildings are eligible to receive a maximum of \$500,000 over the four year period of the program (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2011).

## **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 provincial and federal grants I receive under this program taxable?**

No, they are not taxable.

## **Federal Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC)**

### **30. What is the Home Renovation Tax Credit?**

Announced January 27, 2009 in the federal 2009 budget, the HRTC provides a temporary incentive for Canadians to undertake new renovation projects or accelerate planned future projects, thus providing timely stimulus to the Canadian economy while boosting energy efficiency and the value of Canada's housing stock. Individuals will need to keep receipts for qualifying expenditures, and may claim the HRTC when filing their income tax returns for 2009.

For more information on the HRTC tax credit, visit the Canada Revenue Agency's website at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/hrtc> or call 1-800-959-8281.

### **31. Can I claim the Home Renovation Tax Credit and apply for the grants?**

Yes. Homeowners participating in the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses and the ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes program may be eligible to receive the temporary federal Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) in addition to the grants they receive for some of the improvements they make.



For example, William and Marie is a couple who are planning to purchase a more energy-efficient furnace and build a deck at their cottage sometime. To take full advantage of the temporary HRTC, they decide to do both projects in 2009 rather than waiting. They pay \$5,000 for the furnace and \$3,500 for the deck. They also decide to have the area around the deck landscaped for \$2,500, bringing their total costs to \$11,000 (\$5,000 + \$3,500 + \$2,500). Marie claims a credit of \$1,350 on the maximum allowable amount of \$9,000. This credit is in addition to the federal and provincial grants that William and Marie expect to receive for installing a more energy-efficient furnace

### **Federal ecoENERGY Retrofit Incentive Program**

#### **32. How does Saskatchewan's new program compare with the ecoENERGY Retrofit - Homes Initiative?**

Our programs are complementary. Homeowners that participate in the new Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses program also qualify for the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes grants. More information on the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program can be found at [ecoaction.gc.ca](http://ecoaction.gc.ca).

#### **33. 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 and ensures that homeowners receive consistent information and that the grants are issued as quickly as possible.