

## **Energy Efficient Rebate for New Homes Questions and Answers**

### **1. What is the Energy Efficient Rebate Program for New Homes?**

The Energy Efficient Rebate for New Homes is a program that provides incentives to Saskatchewan residents who are currently building or planning to build an energy efficient home that is either ENERGY STAR® qualified or R-2000 certified. These homes are built to an EnerGuide 80 standard.

The program helps offset the cost premium that can be associated with building an energy efficient home.

### **2. What rebates are available under the program?**

New homeowners are eligible to receive up to \$2,400 in rebates.

Upon the purchase of an ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified home, homeowners qualify for a \$1,000 rebate plus,

- an additional \$1,000 rebate for the purchase and installation of a solar domestic hot water heating system,
- a \$150 rebate for the purchase and installation of a drain-water heat recovery (DWHR) system, and/or
- a \$100 rebate for the purchase and installation of one qualifying natural gas appliance – for two qualifying natural gas appliances the rebate increases to \$250. Qualifying natural gas appliances include clothes dryers, barbecues, cooktops, and ranges.

### **3. Why did the Province implement a rebate program for new homes?**

The goals of the rebate program include:

- increasing the number of new energy efficient homes being built in Saskatchewan
- reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- providing long-term savings to homeowners on utility bills, future maintenance costs, and construction costs
- educating builders and homebuyers on the value of energy efficiency and opportunities for renewable energy sources such as solar design

### **4. What is the cost of the program?**

The Ministry of Environment has committed up to \$1.3 Million for the program.

## **5. How many new homebuyers is the program targeting?**

According to the CMHC *Housing Outlook*, it is estimated that there will be 2,400-2,500 new home starts in 2007. The target is to build at least 1,000 homes that are ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified.

Of the energy efficient homes that qualify for the \$1,000 grant, it is estimated that 25% will install a drain-water heat recovery system and 50% will install qualifying natural gas appliances.

## **6. How long is the rebate program available?**

The rebate program is available from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008. Homebuyers qualify for the rebate if they **register or purchase** an ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified home during this time period.

## **7. How do I apply?**

New homeowners must complete the rebate form in full and mail it to the SaskEnergy address indicated on the form. SaskEnergy will be administering the program on behalf of the Ministry of Environment. To request an application form, please call 1-866-409-9770 or visit [www.saskenergy.com](http://www.saskenergy.com).

Please allow 4-6 weeks after your possession date to receive your rebate.

## **8. I have heard about the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses (SEGH) grant Program, is this the same thing?**

The Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses Retrofit grant program is an incentive for **existing** homes. SEGH assists homeowners who are planning to undergo energy efficient retrofits that will help reduce their energy costs and their greenhouse gas emissions. For more information on SEGH, visit [www.saskenergy.com](http://www.saskenergy.com).

## **9. I have heard that ENERGY STAR qualified and R-2000 certified homes are built to an EnerGuide rating of 80. What does this mean?**

ENERGY STAR qualified and R-2000 certified homes are constructed to an EnerGuide rating of 80. The EnerGuide for Houses rating system was designed by Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) to measure a home's energy performance. Although the scale ranges from 0 to 100, new standard houses typically rate at a minimum of 68. Meeting 80 on the scale is a real achievement and represents the most energy-efficient homes on the market.

## **10. Do I need to have an inspection completed to qualify for the rebate?**

Building or purchasing a newly constructed ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified home means the home has already undergone the inspections necessary to qualify for the rebate.

ENERGY STAR qualified homes undergo quality assurance testing during construction and a de-pressurization test after the home is completed.

R-2000 certified homes receive an inspection and depressurization test once the home is built.

Inspections are arranged by your homebuilder during the construction phase and costs associated with the inspections are included as part of your home's total purchase price.

## **11. What is an ENERGY STAR qualified Home?**

An ENERGY STAR qualified home is a home that has been built by a licensed ENERGY STAR for New Homes builder who incorporates resource efficient features into the home so that it can meet the ENERGY STAR for New Homes technical specifications.

Upon completion of the ENERGY STAR qualified new home, an independent ENERGY STAR for New Homes evaluator verifies that the home has been built to ENERGY STAR for New Homes technical specifications. After the verification process is complete, Natural Resources Canada issues an ENERGY STAR for New Homes label and certificate to the homeowner. The label is usually placed on the home's electrical panel and includes a seal of authenticity.

The ENERGY STAR for New Homes technical specifications have been customized for Saskatchewan.

## **12. What is an R-2000 certified home?**

Developed in partnership with Canada's residential construction industry, R-2000 is an initiative of NRCan's Office of Energy Efficiency. Its aim: to promote the use of cost-effective energy-efficient building practices and technologies.

Since being introduced the R-2000 standard has set the benchmark for home building in Canada. The standard is continually upgraded through ongoing research to ensure that the R-2000 standard remains at the leading edge of cost-effective energy-efficient construction technology.

R-2000 homes can be built only by builders trained and licensed by the Government of Canada through Resource Efficient Housing Incorporated in Saskatchewan. Once the home is inspected and certified the homeowner will receive an R-2000 sticker for the electrical panel that will include the R-2000 certificate number specific to their home.

### **13. What is the difference between ENERGY STAR qualified and R-2000 certified homes?**

Both are highly energy efficient and environmentally responsible homes designed to achieve the same level of energy efficiency.

To homebuyers there are subtle differences but to builders there is a significant difference. ENERGY STAR qualified and R-2000 homes provide different methods to design and verify resource efficient new housing.

To learn about the building specifications and features of ENERGY STAR qualified and R-2000 certified homes, visit [www.energystarsask.ca](http://www.energystarsask.ca).

### **14. What are the benefits of owning an ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified home?**

You can be assured that your ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified new home has been built to strict technical specifications by a licensed ENERGY STAR for New Homes builder and that it has been verified by an independent energy evaluator to ensure state-of-the-art performance. You will benefit from it in a variety of ways.

#### **Lower cost**

You will be pleased to see the monthly energy savings in an ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified new home. If you pay a mortgage, these savings will more than compensate for any additional costs that may be charged initially for the energy-saving features.

#### **Improved air quality = health and comfort**

Air movement in your house, especially in winter, causes drafts that make you feel uncomfortable. You will quickly notice the difference in an ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified home. Higher levels of air tightness and a heat recovery ventilation system (HRV) give you a greater sense of coziness as they keep indoor air fresh and maintain humidity at the level you find comfortable.

#### **Less energy expended = fewer pollutants**

Homes account for 17 percent of all energy use in Canada. As ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified homes are more energy-efficient than standard code built houses, they can help reduce air pollution and lessen other environmental problems, such as climate change.

**15. What type of savings can I expect from an ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified home?**

You expect to save the following with the purchase of an energy efficient home:

- Energy efficient homes are 30-40% more efficient than homes built to minimum standards which equals annual savings of \$800 to \$1,000 in energy costs
- Better protection against cold, heat, drafts, moisture, pollution and noise
- Produces fewer greenhouse gases
- Plus, ENERGY STAR qualified new homes require equipment to be installed that will result in a reduction in electrical use by 1,000 kWh per year and a savings of 100,000 litres of water per year

**16. How do new homes qualify for the ENERGY STAR mark or R-2000 certification?**

In order for a new home to be ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified, it must be built to technical specifications by a registered builder.

To find a registered builder near you, visit [www.energystarsask.ca](http://www.energystarsask.ca).

**17. I am building a home on my own without going through a registered Saskatchewan Home Builder. I am building it according to ENERGY STAR and/or R-2000 guidelines. Do I qualify for the rebate?**

In order to qualify for the rebate, your new home must be built by a qualified homebuilder and officially registered through Resource Efficient Housing Incorporated (REHI). REHI is non-profit corporation founded by the three Saskatchewan Home Builders' Associations to manage resource efficient housing programs in Saskatchewan.

**18. I would like to build an ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified home but my homebuilder indicated they are not registered to build to these standards. What should I do?**

Encourage your homebuilder to contact REHI at 1-306-665-2525 to discuss how they can become qualified or certified to build registered energy efficient housing.

**19. Why do I have to use a certified or licensed builder to register my home as being ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified?**

Building or purchasing a newly constructed home through a homebuilder that has been registered to build ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified homes means a high level of quality assurance and a guarantee that your home is built above the industry standard.

You can also have peace of mind knowing your home is backed with New Home Warranty and that your homebuilder has been trained according to regulations specified by Natural Resources Canada.

**20. Will an ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified home cost more than a conventionally built home?**

An ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified home may cost a bit more, but energy, electrical and water savings will more than pay for the extra upfront investment.

You may also benefit from increased resale value on your home.

**21. I didn't purchase my home new but would like to find out the upgrades needed to certify my home as R-2000 or ENERGY STAR qualified?**

If you purchase an existing home from a current homeowner, and it is not already ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified, your home can not be registered through REHI as being ENERGY STAR or R-2000. However, you may still qualify for energy efficiency retrofits and rebates under the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses grant program with the potential to meet an EnerGuide rating of 80. Details on SEGH can be found by visiting [www.saskenergy.com](http://www.saskenergy.com).

**22. How many homebuilders are certified to build these homes?**

There are already 35 homebuilders that are certified to build ENERGY STAR qualified homes and 27 homebuilders that are certified to build R-2000 certified homes. The Resource Efficient Housing Incorporated (REHI) organization is continually holding training sessions to certify additional builders.

**23. Who can I contact for more information?**

Saskatchewan residents interested in building a home that is ENERGY STAR qualified or R-2000 certified should contact their local homebuilder.

Homebuilders who would like to become certified or require more information should contact Resource Efficient Housing Incorporated (REHI) at 1-306-665-2525.

For an Energy Efficient Rebate for New Homes application form or more details about the rebate program please contact SaskEnergy at 1-866-409-9770 or visit [www.saskenergy.com](http://www.saskenergy.com).