



Natural Resources  
Canada

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**ecoENERGY**  
an ecoACTION initiative

# Grants for Residential Property Owners



Canada 

# Call in the energy experts



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an ecoACTION initiative

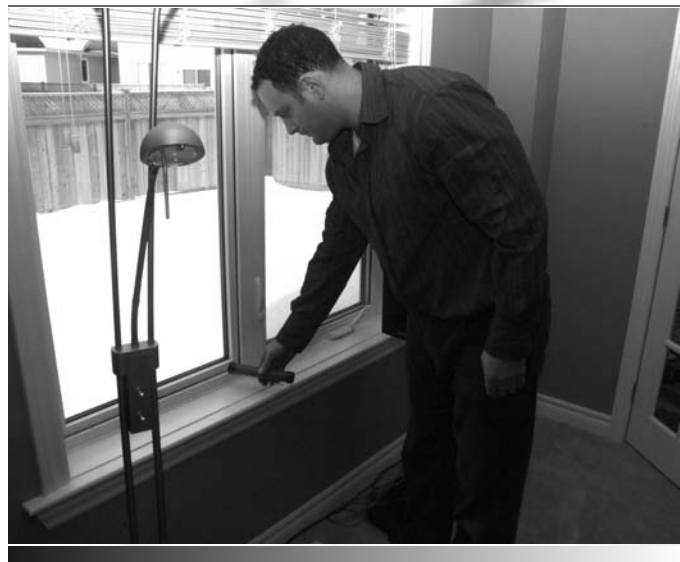
The residential energy assessment initiative has been developed by the Office of Energy Efficiency of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to help property owners make retrofit choices that improve the comfort and energy efficiency of their home.



*Advisors will show you how to improve the comfort of your home and cut heating and cooling costs.*

NRCan will ensure that only licensed and independent energy advisors will perform a residential energy assessment to identify how your home uses energy and where it is being wasted. Advisors will show you how to improve the comfort of your home and cut heating and cooling costs, while ensuring adequate ventilation for a healthy indoor environment for your family.

NRCan has contracted with organizations across Canada to make the residential energy assessment service widely available. The price of the service varies because local and provincial governments and/or private-sector partners in some regions may also contribute to the service's delivery.



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## Grants available for energy efficiency retrofits

The Government of Canada now provides grants to property owners who complete energy efficiency retrofits based on the energy advisors' recommendations. Owners of low-rise residential rental properties may also qualify for a grant.

The grant amount is based on carrying out energy efficiency retrofits such as increasing your attic insulation or replacing your gas furnace with a qualified ENERGY STAR® model. Only homes that have undergone a residential energy efficiency assessment by an NRCan-licensed advisor will be eligible for grants.



*You can*  
**make a difference**

Today, 17 percent of all energy used in Canada goes toward running our homes. Every time we use energy from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas, we produce greenhouse gas emissions. By using less energy in our homes, we help reduce the production of the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change and harm our environment.

Nowadays, homes that are more than 25 years old have the potential to save an average of 35 percent of their energy use. Homes that are more than 50 years old could achieve even greater savings – an average of 38 percent.

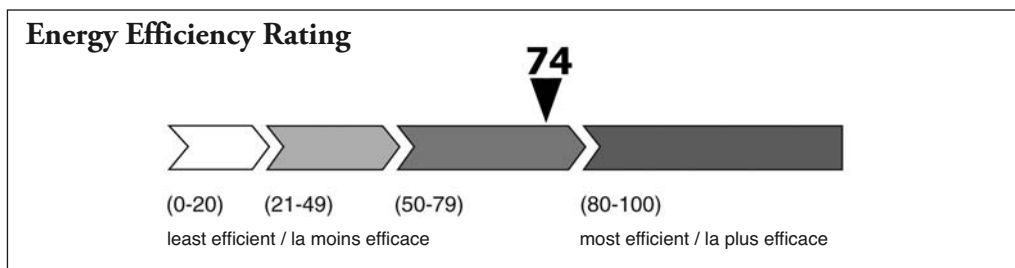
Since 1998, more than 270 000 property owners have used NRCan's energy efficiency program to help identify and solve home comfort problems and plan their energy efficiency retrofits. NRCan data show that if these property owners undertook all the retrofits recommended, they would reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by almost 4.6 tonnes per year, per house.

# How does the residential energy assessment service work?

Only homes that have been evaluated using NRCan's residential energy assessment service will be eligible for a grant.

The service includes:

- a detailed energy evaluation of your home carried out by a licensed energy advisor
- a “blower door” test to find air leaks
- a report that shows where your energy dollars are being spent and what you can do to improve your home's energy efficiency
- an energy efficiency rating label that shows you how energy efficient your home is compared with others in your region



Your advisor will review your report with you, explain the details and answer your questions.

The residential energy assessment service is available across Canada through a network of licensed organizations. Simply call to make an appointment. Visit the ecoACTION Web site or call the toll-free line, both noted at the end of this brochure, to locate authorized energy advisors that serve your area.

The residential energy assessment service is not a pre-purchase home inspection – it deals specifically with energy efficiency. If you are concerned about the general condition of your home, energy advisors will recommend that you call a home inspector.

*Visit the ecoACTION Web site or call our toll-free line to locate authorized energy advisors.*



*Your energy advisor will review your report with you, explain the details and answer your questions.*

# *When should you use the residential energy assessment service?*

## **Does your home have comfort problems such as drafts, cold spots and frosted windows?**

Find the source of these problems and get information about repairing them.

## **Renovating or retrofitting?**

Energy advisors use state-of-the-art evaluation practices and can advise on the best modern techniques and types of products.

## **Upgrading your heating and cooling system?**

Energy efficiency improvements can make a difference to the size of the heating and cooling system that your home needs.

## **Selling your house?**

After you've made energy efficiency upgrades and comfort improvements to your home, the revised energy efficiency rating label shows potential buyers how much you've improved your home's energy efficiency and how it compares to other homes in your area.



# The benefits of the residential energy assessment service



## Peace of mind

NRCan-licensed energy advisors provide unbiased advice on how to improve your home's energy use. The service is also quality-assured by the Government of Canada to ensure the integrity of the residential energy assessment service.

## Understanding your options

The residential energy assessment service provides a thorough basement-to-attic assessment of your home's energy use. The energy advisor's report will help you to plan retrofits that will improve the energy efficiency of your home or multi-unit residential building.

## Proof of upgrades

After you have completed your energy upgrades, our experts will provide you with a second (post-retrofit) evaluation and a new energy efficiency rating label that indicates your home's improved energy use.

## Grants toward your retrofit expenses

Only homes that have had pre- and post-retrofit evaluations from an NRCan-licensed energy advisor are eligible for grants. The grant amount is based on each of the recommended retrofits you have completed and the relative impact the retrofits have on the energy efficiency of your home. For instance, replacing your gas furnace with an ENERGY STAR® qualified furnace will achieve a high level of energy savings and will therefore have a bigger grant value.

## Taking action to alleviate climate change

The use of energy from fossil fuels is a major cause of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Canadians are being encouraged to use less energy. **Make your contribution to help protect our environment by using the residential energy assessment service.**



*Your energy advisor can suggest the retrofits that are your best options.*

# Who is eligible for grants?

For full details on eligibility, consult your local NRCan-licensed service organization. You can view the complete eligibility criteria on-line by visiting the ecoACTION Web site at [ecoaction.gc.ca](http://ecoaction.gc.ca).

Here are the main criteria:

- **You can apply for a grant for a property that you own and live in or rent out.** This includes detached, semi-detached and row houses and low-rise residential buildings of three storeys or less (with a footprint of less than 600 square metres), as well as mobile homes on a permanent foundation.
- **Grants are available for work done within a specific time frame,** so it is important to talk to your local service organization about the eligibility of your house as soon as you are ready to plan and undertake your energy efficiency retrofits. You have 18 months from the date of your pre-retrofit evaluation to complete the work and qualify for a grant.
- **Only homes that have undergone a pre- and post-retrofit residential energy assessment service by an NRCan-licensed advisor will be eligible. You will be able to apply only once per property.**
- **Homeowners must carry out specific improvements in order to qualify for a grant.** NRCan-licensed energy advisors will be able to tell you which retrofits have the greatest impact on your home's efficiency. The greater the improvement, the more the grant will be.

It is you – the property owner – who decides what retrofits recommended by your energy advisor you wish to undertake. You are responsible for choosing a contractor and for ensuring that the work is performed properly. It is important that you get a detailed written contract between you and your contractor in order to prevent problems later on. The residential energy assessment service does not assess the quality of the work performed – it evaluates only the retrofit's impact on the energy efficiency of your home.



*It is you – the property owner – who decides what retrofits (recommended by your energy advisor) you wish to undertake.*

# How do you apply for a grant?

It's easy. Your energy advisor will apply for the grant on your behalf after you have completed the energy efficiency retrofits and your home has been re-assessed. Your advisor will prepare the paperwork for you to sign and will be able to tell you exactly how much you can expect to receive. Your energy advisor will then forward your application to NRCan.

A table of retrofits has been established to show the payment for the completion of each recommended upgrade. The grant amount has been determined by the relative effectiveness of that particular upgrade in reducing energy or water use, and not directly on the cost of the upgrade, which will vary depending on location, local pricing and labour costs, size of house, etc. Refer to the brochure *Retrofit Your Home and Qualify for a Grant!* for grant amounts related to retrofits.

A grant application must be submitted to NRCan no later than 18 months after the date of the pre-retrofit evaluation. You can expect to receive your cheque within 90 days of your follow-up evaluation.



*Your energy advisor will apply for the grant on your behalf.*

# Schedule your evaluation today!

The residential energy assessment service is offered in cooperation with professional service organizations across Canada. Call the service organization in your area today to find out the cost of the evaluation and schedule an appointment. For the name of a service organization in your region, visit the ecoACTION Web site at [ecoaction.gc.ca](http://ecoaction.gc.ca) or call our toll-free line.

In preparation for an energy assessment, you should ensure that the energy advisor has access to your attic, crawl space or any other hard to reach areas. The advisor will need to take photos of your house (outside and inside). You will be asked to sign a homeowner release form permitting the advisor to take the photos, to release assessment data to NRCan and to allow NRCan to carry out quality assurance measures if the need arises. A responsible person who can make household decisions should be there when the advisor does his or her assessment.

## Privacy

Personal information is required to process the grant application. Any personal information that owners provide is protected under the federal *Privacy Act*. The application form provides full details on why data is collected and how it is protected. For more information about the *Privacy Act* and NRCan's information holdings, visit [www.privcom.gc.ca](http://www.privcom.gc.ca).

## Web site:

[ecoaction.gc.ca](http://ecoaction.gc.ca)

## General enquiries:

1-800-O-Canada • 1-800-622-6232 (toll-free)

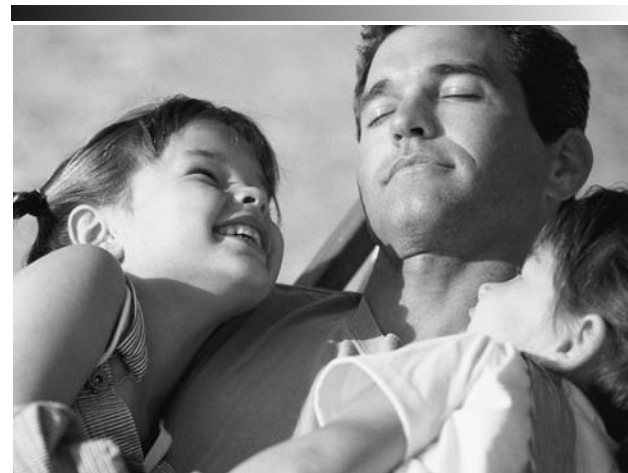
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Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency

*Leading Canadians to Energy Efficiency at Home, at Work and on the Road*

Canada 