

FAQ & General Information about Home Energy Incentives

Eligibility

Can I be eligible for both provincial and federal incentives?

Yes. You can be eligible to receive incentives from both the provincial LiveSmart BC and federal ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes programs as long as you meet other eligibility criteria for these programs. For details on eligibility for the ecoENERGY Program visit: <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/residential/personal/grants.cfm>

I have already accessed incentives from either the LiveSmart BC or ecoENERGY programs. Am I eligible for incentives through the current LiveSmart BC program?

No. In order to provide as many British Columbians as possible access to limited government funds the current LiveSmart BC incentives are only available to participants who have not previously accessed incentives through either the LiveSmart BC or ecoENERGY programs.

I have already had an initial (pre-retrofit) assessment but have never accessed incentives from either the LiveSmart BC or ecoENERGY programs. Am I eligible for incentives through the current LiveSmart BC program?

Yes, however you must have a new baseline energy efficiency assessment after April 1, 2011. Only upgrades undertaken after this new baseline assessment will be eligible for incentives. You will not be eligible for another LiveSmart BC assessment subsidy for this new baseline. The cost of your new baseline will be up to \$325 plus taxes and travel in some areas.

Am I eligible to access LiveSmart BC incentives more than once for the same property?

No. Eligible participants can only participate in the new LiveSmart BC program once for each property they own.

Can I access LiveSmart BC incentives for upgrades to a rental property or a property that is not my primary residence?

Yes. As long as you meet other eligibility requirements, you can access incentives for these types of properties.

I participated in the LiveSmart BC: Efficiency Incentive program and the federal ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program in a previous home. I now own a new home. Am I eligible for incentives under this program?

Yes. The first step to becoming eligible for incentives in your new home is to have a home energy assessment by a Certified Energy Advisor. To find a Certified Energy Advisor in your area click [here](#).

A previous owner of my home participated in the LiveSmart BC: Efficiency Incentive program and/or the federal ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program. Am I eligible for incentives under this program?

Yes. The first step to becoming eligible for incentives in your new home is to have a home energy assessment by a Certified Energy Advisor. To find a Certified Energy Advisor in your area click [here](#).

About the program

Will I be taxed on the efficiency incentives I receive for my upgrades?

No.

How long will it take me to receive my incentive cheque?

Generally you can expect to receive your incentive cheque within three months of your follow-up assessment. However, due to adjustments that are required to the cheque processing system in order to process incentives under the updated program, the program will not begin processing incentives until after August 1, 2011. Participants that have a follow-up evaluation before August 1, 2011 can expect to receive their incentive within three months of August 1, 2011.

When does the LiveSmart BC Efficiency Incentive program end?

This program currently has funding until March 31, 2013.

Does it matter how old my house is?

Yes it does. New construction is not eligible for the LiveSmart BC program. While any home that has had an occupancy permit for at least 6 months can become eligible, houses built before 1985 will benefit the most as they have the most potential for energy improvements.

Are mobile homes eligible for the incentive program?

Yes. Mobile homes are eligible.

I live in an apartment/condo complex. Am I eligible for incentives?

Multi-unit residential buildings are not eligible for the LiveSmart BC: Efficiency Incentive Program.

Getting the work done

Where can I get help hiring a good contractor?

Visit www.hiringacontractor.com

How do I know what type of new energy efficient products I should be putting into my house?

Your Certified Energy Advisor will help determine the improvements that are most cost effective for your home but you will decide which upgrades you undertake.

How do I know what it will cost me to make efficiency improvements? For example, how much will it cost to replace my windows or buy a new furnace?

You are encouraged to research energy efficiency products by talking to retailers, your contractor and the Certified Energy Advisor who does your home energy assessment. Before having work done to your home, you are advised to obtain three quotes from contractors.

Can I do the work myself and receive a grant?

Yes, but you must have an energy assessment done by a Certified Energy Advisor both before and after you make the improvements. Homeowners are responsible for ensuring that they obtain all necessary permits and meet all municipal and provincial requirements.

Do I have to make my energy efficiency improvements right after my initial (pre-retrofit) assessment?

No. However, in order to access incentives from the LiveSmart BC program you must complete your eligible improvements and your post-retrofit assessment within 18 months of your initial assessment or by March 31, 2013 **whichever comes first**. In order to be eligible for federal ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes incentives you must complete eligible improvements and your post-retrofit assessment by March 31, 2012.

For more info visit ecoaction.gc.ca/homes and www.livesmartbc.ca/incentives/efficiency-home/index.html