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September 4, 2003

EnerGuide* for Houses Retrofit Incentive

To encourage Canadian homeowners to make energy efficient home improvements, the Federal Government announced Aug. 12 a \$73 million grant program as part of its Climate Change Plan for Canada. The EnerGuide for Houses Retrofit Incentive will give grants to homeowners who can show, through EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) evaluations, that they have increased their home's energy rating.

To qualify for a grant, homeowners must have an EGH evaluation done before and after they make retrofits. ATCO EnergySense, as the primary delivery agent for the EGH program in Alberta, conducts the evaluations. All homeowners in Alberta are eligible to apply for this service, not just ATCO Gas or ATCO Electric customers.

The closing date for submissions to the grant program is March 31, 2007.

Who is eligible for the grant?

Homeowners are eligible for the grant if they: own and live in the house being retrofitted; have received an EGH evaluation and rating before making energy efficiency retrofits or changes; have made energy efficiency retrofits to their home; and have received a second EGH evaluation and rating after changes have been completed. Upgrades to homes performed without a pre-evaluation will not qualify.

What type of house is eligible?

The following low-rise residential housing is eligible: bungalows, two-storey, detached, semi-detached and row houses, mobile homes on fixed foundations.

Apartments and most condominiums are not eligible at this time. Rental properties are not eligible.

What steps does a homeowner need to take?

1. Book an EGH home evaluation by contacting ATCO EnergySense by e-mail, energysense@atco.com; through the website, www.atcoenergysense.com; or by calling toll-free 310-SAVE(7283).

We are answering inquiries and booking evaluations in the order they are received. Due to a phenomenal response to the government grant program, we are currently returning calls within 10 business days, and evaluations are currently being booked four to five months in advance. We hope to shorten those timeframes considerably once the initial interest levels off.



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2. A specially trained advisor conducts a careful evaluation of your home using advanced computer software developed by Natural Resources Canada and a “blower door” test to find air leaks. This pre-evaluation takes about two hours.
3. About three weeks after the pre-evaluation, the homeowner receives a report including a prioritized list of recommended changes and an energy efficiency rating for the home. The homeowner reviews the report, decides which recommendations to implement, and arranges for the work to be done. They have **18 months** from the time the pre-evaluation was done to complete the retrofits.

As an unbiased service provider, ATCO EnergySense does not recommend contractors, but the EGH report will provide tips and things to look for when hiring someone.

4. When the upgrades are complete, an energy advisor will come back, at no additional cost, to determine the new energy efficiency rating for your home. This post-evaluation takes about 30 minutes.
5. ATCO EnergySense will complete and submit a grant application on behalf of the homeowner. The eligible grant dollars will be sent directly to the homeowner.

When does the application have to be submitted by to qualify for a grant?

The closing date for submissions to the federal government grant program is March 31, 2007.

How much of a grant will I get?

The amount a homeowner may receive is based on the before and after energy efficiency rating that the home receives, not the amount of money a homeowner spends. The greater the improvement, the greater the eligible grant amount. ATCO EnergySense does not decide grant amounts, as this is a federal government program. Once the homeowner has had their initial evaluation done, the amount of the potential grant can be estimated by using the calculator on the EnerGuide for Houses website listed below.

How much does the EGH evaluation cost?

The cost of an EGH evaluation is subsidized by the federal government. Valued at more than \$300, the regular cost to a homeowner in Alberta is \$150. This includes the post-retrofit evaluation. Currently, ATCO EnergySense has a summer special: consumers who book before Oct. 3 will get an additional \$50 off. The recent government announcement does not further discount the price.



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More questions?

For more information about ATCO EnergySense or EGH evaluations, visit our web site at www.atcoenergysense.com, e-mail energysense@atco.com, or call ATCO EnergySense toll-free at 310-SAVE (7283).

For details about the federal incentive program, contact Natural Resources Canada by phone at 1-800-387-2000, by e-mail at energuide.houses@nrcan.gc.ca, or via the web, energuideforhouses.gc.ca.

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