

Energy Efficiency and Conservation

- Smart Energy Choices for Nova Scotians



Government's response to rising energy prices includes a \$9 million investment to help all Nova Scotians, including businesses, use energy more carefully and economically. Some of the initiatives are new, while others build on existing programs like the federal EnerGuide for Houses program. The new rebates and incentives will provide an opportunity to educate all Nova Scotians about the benefits of energy efficiency and, at the same time, encourage those who are in the market for new products to make smart energy choices.

Government recognizes that long-term investment is needed to change behaviours and help Nova Scotians become more energy conscious. These programs will be modified in the future depending on demand and uptake, response from Nova Scotians, and new opportunities.



Energy Efficient Housing

EnerGuide for Existing Houses

The successful federal EnerGuide for Houses program provides technical assistance and a grant to homeowners who want to improve the

energy efficiency of their homes. Homeowners who have received grants typically reduce their energy use by about 30 per cent. Homeowners pay \$150 to have a certified technician perform an energy audit of their house. They then have 18 months to make the recommended changes and carry out a second audit. The size of the federal grant depends on the difference in the energy efficiency rating before and after retrofits. The average federal grant in Nova Scotia is about \$900.

In excess of 6,000 audits have been conducted in Nova Scotia since the program began and more than 700 homeowners have received grants. Because of the substantial energy savings, the government will encourage more homeowners to participate in this program by investing \$2.5 million for additional provincial incentives for all Nova Scotians.

Provincial Incentives:

- All Nova Scotians who own their own home qualify
- Free energy savings kit, valued at \$40, for homeowners who carry out a home energy audit
- Match the federal grant, to a maximum of \$1,000 per home
- Incentives apply to audits conducted after October 12, 2005
- No application necessary - it will work through federal administration process

EnerGuide for Existing Houses

Additional Incentives - Modest-Income Seniors

The government will invest an additional \$2 million to help modest-income seniors take advantage of the EnerGuide for Houses program. These incentives will be in addition to those that apply to all Nova Scotians.

Provincial Incentives:

- Senior couples with incomes under \$40,000 and individual seniors with incomes under \$25,000 will qualify
- Free energy savings kit, valued at \$40, for homeowners who carry out a home energy audit
- Match the federal grant, to a maximum of \$1,000 per home
- Cover the \$150 cost of the audit
- Provide an extra \$400 grant
- Incentives apply to audits conducted after October 12, 2005
- Applications available by December 1, 2005

EnerGuide for New Houses

In November, the Nova Scotia Homebuilders' Association and Natural Resources Canada will launch a new program - EnerGuide for New Houses. Through an initial \$350 analysis, a technician estimates the future energy bills of a new home. This allows the costs and benefits of energy efficiency upgrades to be realistically evaluated at the planning stages, when energy upgrades are easier and less expensive.

Provincial Incentives:

- Provide \$175 to offset the cost of the initial audit
- Pay remaining \$175 if homebuilder makes improvements to achieve performance rating of at least 77
- Details available from the Nova Scotia Homebuilders' Association



Energy Efficiency Programs, Incentives and Rebates

Energy-Efficient Wood Heating Equipment Rebate

High oil prices will likely result in more homeowners buying wood burning equipment. EPA-certified wood stoves reduce the amount of wood used by 25 per cent and burn cleaner, producing as much as 90 per cent less smoke than regular woodstoves. Wood pellet stoves also offer a clean-burning alternative for home heating.

Provincial Rebate:

- \$200 rebate on the purchase of an EPA-certified wood stove or a wood pellet stove
- The rebate applies to purchases after October 12, 2005
- Applications will be available in January 2006 - more details to follow
- Customers should keep receipts until the formal application process is in place

Oil Furnace Incentive

Government will provide a \$1 million program to help Nova Scotians purchase new energy-efficient oil-fired heating systems. More than 60 per cent of Nova Scotians heat with oil. The incentive program will assist homeowners to replace their furnace or purchase a high-efficiency burner for their heating system. New equipment must be at least 85 per cent efficient. The program will be developed in consultation with Natural Resources Canada and the oil heat industry association to explore opportunities for joint funding and delivery.

Provincial Incentive:

* Details available January 2006

Renewable Energy Incentive

Renewable energy projects include technologies such as solar water heating systems, solar photovoltaic systems, and small wind turbines. These projects tend to have high up-front costs but low operating costs. The high capital cost is a barrier for many individuals and companies. Government will provide rebates to promote greater use of these technologies. The rebate will focus initially on solar water heating systems, both residential and commercial. Residential solar water heating systems typically cost about \$4,000 to \$6,000 installed. The rebate may be expanded to include other renewable technologies in the future.

Provincial Rebate:

- 10 per cent rebate on domestic and commercial solar water heating systems
- The rebate applies to purchases after October 12, 2005
- Applications will be available in January 2006
- Customers should keep receipts until the formal application process is in place

Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Incentive

The government will provide funding for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with mandates related to energy or environmental issues to promote the use of energy-efficient vehicles. The government will ask for proposals from the NGOs for funding for the purchase of energy-efficient demonstration vehicles and as well as for education programs to promote energy efficient vehicles.

Provincial Incentive or Rebate:

- Total available funding \$250,000
- Details will be developed in consultation with NGOs via a request for proposals to be issued in January 2006



LED Traffic Signal Replacement Incentive Program

Energy-efficient LED traffic lights use 90 per cent less energy than traditional incandescent traffic lights, resulting in significant savings on electricity bills. The Department of Energy cost shares the traffic light replacement program with municipalities. To date, all of the provincially owned and almost half of the municipally owned

traffic signals in the Nova Scotia have been replaced with LED lights. This program is underway and funding will continue for two more years, providing the opportunity for all traffic signals in the province to be replaced with energy-efficient LED signals.

Provincial Incentive:

- Share half the purchase cost of LED traffic signals with municipalities
- Municipalities will be notified by November



CFL Incentive Program for Residential Customers

Compared with regular light bulbs, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs last eight to 10 times longer and use about 75 per cent less electricity. The Department of Energy will introduce an awareness and incentive program to educate Nova Scotians about the benefits of using CFL bulbs. The program will use a give-away or coupon system to encourage people to "Switch and Save" and will be delivered in partnership with others.

Provincial Incentive:

- Free CFLs or coupons towards purchase of CFLs
- Program will begin in March 2006

Energy-Efficient Lighting Program for Business and Institutions

Installing energy-efficient lighting in areas where lights are left on for long periods is very cost effective - saving up to 80 per cent in electricity costs. The Department of Energy will introduce an incentive program to encourage businesses to purchase energy-efficient fixtures and bulbs.

Provincial Incentive or Rebate:

- Available in January 2006

Public Education and Outreach

In numerous surveys, Nova Scotians have said they want to learn more about how to conserve energy and save money. The province will invest \$1 million to carry out public education and outreach activities to help Nova Scotians make smart energy choices. The activities will include an enhanced toll-free EnerInfo line, web-based information, school-based programs, and other community-based social marketing programs.

Many of the education and outreach initiatives will be linked to new rebates and incentive programs. The Department of Energy will explore opportunities to deliver many of the public education and outreach initiatives in partnership with others. The department will launch an energy tips campaign in late October 2005. This campaign will include an energy-saving tips brochure mailed to over 380,000 households across the province, supported by a TV ad campaign.