

Home Energy Assessment Rebate Guide



Enjoy the good things efficiency brings.

Home Energy Assessment Overview.

A Home Energy Assessment is the best way to discover how to save energy in your home. A Registered Energy Advisor will come to your home and perform an EnerGuide assessment, which includes checking it over from attic to basement, looking at insulation levels, air leakage, and mechanical systems. The assessment typically takes 2 to 3 hours, and your Registered Energy Advisor will provide information and expertise along the way.

The EnerGuide rating system is used across Canada to help homeowners understand their energy usage and identify upgrades to improve energy efficiency. Your home will get an EnerGuide label which includes a rating of its energy performance. You'll also get a Renovation Upgrade Report that has prioritized efficiency upgrades that you can use as a roadmap to save energy and money.

Participation in Home Energy Assessment not only provides access to provincial rebates, but it is also the entry point to the federal Canada Greener Homes Grant initiative for Nova Scotians. Up to \$5,000 in rebates are available through each initiative, for a total of up to \$10,000. You will see rebate amounts for both these programs listed throughout this guide.

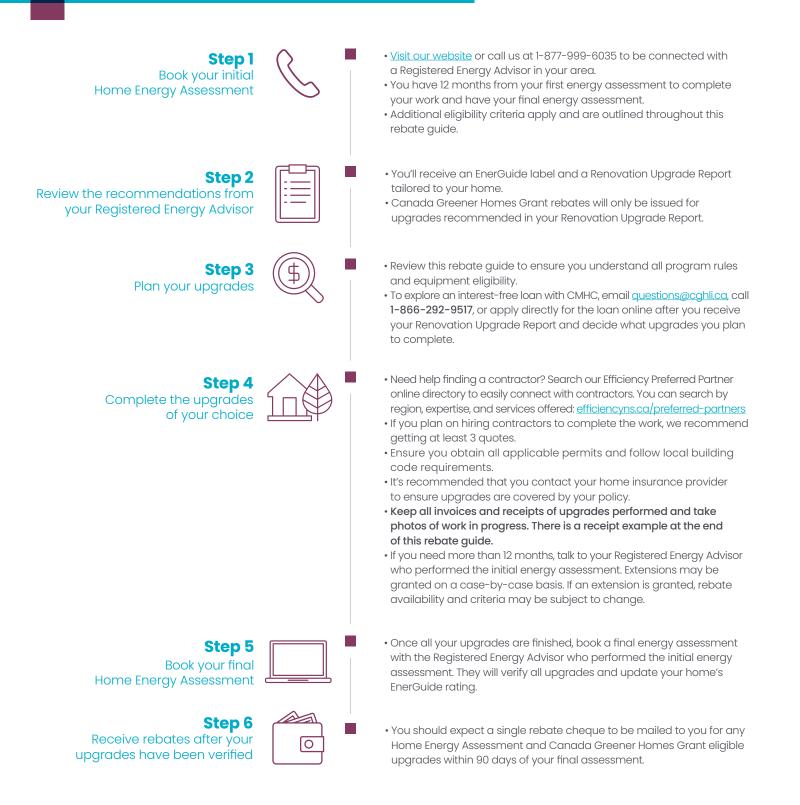
The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) can provide an interest-free loan of up to \$40,000 on any Canada Greener Homes Grant eligible upgrades. For inquiries about the application process, contact CMHC at <u>questions@cghli.ca</u> or 1-866-292-9517.

Please Note: Your initial energy assessment **must be complete** before you can apply for a loan. Your loan applications must be **approved** before commencing any work.

Upgrade	Details
Insulation	Page 5
Windows and Doors	Page 8
Heating Equipment	Page 9
Ventilation	Page 15
Solar Photovoltaic Systems	Page 16
Climate Change Resiliency	Page 18

Rebate Eligible Upgrades

6 Steps to Energy Savings.



General Eligibility Criteria.

- Equipment must appear on the applicable eligible product list, unless otherwise stated. Eligible product lists are found throughout this guide alongside the rebate eligible upgrades.
- Equipment must be purchased in Canada. Online purchases must be from online Canadian distributors.
- Equipment and materials must be new and unused.
- Upgrades must be purchased and installed between the initial and final assessment dates.
- Climate change resiliency upgrades and thermostats must be combined with at least one other eligible Canada Greener Homes Grant upgrade.
- Canada Greener Homes Grant rebates are capped at 100% of costs incurred by program participants.
- Participants must keep all receipts and invoices pertaining to upgrades until March 31, 2028.
- Properties are only eligible for the Canada Greener Homes Grant if the owner can demonstrate proof of ownership (e.g. property tax bill number) and proof of residence (e.g. driver's license or government issued identification with the address of the participating property).
- Participation in the Home Energy Assessment program precludes customers from receiving rebates for the same upgrades through other Efficiency Nova Scotia programs, such as Heating System Rebates and SolarHomes. Only rebates from one program will be issued for any particular upgrade.
- Please see <u>Natural Resources Canada's website</u> for additional best practices for some Canada Greener Homes Grant eligible upgrades.

Home Eligibility.

- Home is located in Nova Scotia.
- Home is the primary residence of the owner or owned by an Indigenous government/organization.
- Home is at least 6 months old from the date on the occupancy permit.
- Home has all interior and exterior finishes in place (including, for example, siding and drywall) and has a functioning automated heating system.
- Home may be any of the following dwelling types:
 - Single or semi-detached (i.e. duplex).
 - Side-by-side row housing (i.e. townhome).
 - Mobile home on a permanent foundation.
 - Permanently-moored floating home.
 - Mixed use building where the residential portion is at least 50% of the building area.
 - Low-rise multi-unit residential building (3 storeys or less with a footprint of 600m2 or less).

Please refer to our multi-unit residential building rebate guide for more details on rules and rebates for these buildings.

Our network of 300+ Efficiency Preferred Partners are professionals in a variety of areas, including general contractors, insulation installers, heating system installers, electricians, and more. We connect home and business owners with these local professionals to help with energy efficiency improvements.

Search our directory

efficiencyns.ca/preferred-partners /#search-directory to find one of our Preferred Partner members to complete your efficiency project -You can search by business name, region, or service type.





Customer Story

Jane was planning to renovate her 1980's bungalow in Bible Hill, and decided to build energy efficiency into her designs. After receiving her custom energy report, she decided to add a 2-head mini-split heat pump, installed 3 **ENERGY STAR®** windows, and insulated her previously uninsulated basement. Through the Home Energy Assessment and Canada **Greener Homes Grant** initiatives she received over \$4,000 in rebates to help with her home reno costs.

House Type	Bungalow
Year built	1981
Square footage	1,855 sq ft
Initial EnerGuide rating	98 GJ
Final EnerGuide rating	58 GJ
Estimated upgrades cost	\$15,050
Annual savings	\$1,404
Payback	7.8 years

Upgrade	HEA Rebate	Greener Homes Rebate	Total
Basement wall insulation (added R-10 to 32% of uninsulated wall)	\$192	\$336	\$528
Mini-split heat pump (2 indoor heads, 24,000 BTU/h)	\$600	\$2,500	\$3,100
Windows (3)	\$90	\$375	\$465
Total Rebate:	- -		\$4,093

Need help? Planning multiple upgrades?

Speak with one of our Energy Solutions Advisors at **1-877-999-6035** or **info@efficiencyns.ca** to explore how to best maximize rebates across our programs.

Ceiling Insulation

Insulation.

Area	Starting	Ending	Max Rebates			
	R-value	R-value	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total	
Attic	R-12 or less		\$750	\$1,800	\$2,550	
	Between R-13 and R-25	R-50	\$375	\$600	\$975	
	Between R-26 and R-35		\$125	\$250	\$375	
	R-0	R-20	\$500	\$600	\$1,100	
Flat Roof or Cathedral Ceiling	R-12 or less		\$750	\$600	\$1,350	
	Between R-13 and R-25	R-28	\$250	\$250	\$500	

Exterior Wall Insulation

	Max Rebates			
Criteria	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total	
Add between R-3.8 and R-7.4	\$900	\$0	\$900	
Add between R-7.5 and R-12		\$3,300	\$4,800	
Add between R-13 and R-20	\$1,500	\$3,800	\$5,300	
Add more than R-20		\$5,000	\$6,500	

Foundation Insulation

		Max Rebates			
Area	Criteria	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total	
	Add between R-10 and R-22 to minimum 20% of the area	\$600	\$1,050	\$1,650	
Basement Walls	Add more than R-22 to minimum 20% of the area	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$2,700	
Basement Wall Header	Add at Least R-20 to minimum 80% of the area	\$150	\$240	\$390	
Crawlspace Walls	Add Between R-10 and R-22 and must complete 100% of the area	\$480	\$1,040	\$1,520	
& Header	Add more than R-22 and must complete 100% of the area	\$960	\$1,300	\$2,260	
Floor Above Crawlspace	Add at least R-24 and must complete 100% of the area	\$240	\$800	\$1,040	
Basement Slab	Add at Least R-3.5 to minimum 50% of the area	\$200	\$400	\$600	

Exposed Floor Insulation

	Max Rebates		
Criteria	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total
Add at least R-20 to 100% of area, a minimum of 120 ft ²	\$200	\$350	\$550

Additional Eligibility Criteria

• Rebates are calculated based on the percentage of the area upgraded. For example, if you upgrade 60% of your cumulative attic spaces, you will be eligible for 60% of the max rebate amount. Likewise, if your foundation walls consist of 30% crawlspace and 70% basement, and you upgrade both based on the rebate tables, you will be eligible for 30% of the max crawl-space wall rebate and 70% of the max basement wall rebate.

- Rebates are issued for the incremental insulation added. This means that if existing insulation is removed, the equivalent R-value must be added back, **in addition** to the amounts listed in the rebate tables. For example, if R-12 is removed from a foundation header, at least R-32 must be added to offset this removal and achieve the minimum addition of R-20. Similarly, if R-20 is removed from a flat attic and R-50 is the final amount, rebates will be paid for the equivalent of adding R-30.
- Upgrades must be performed to the following minimum areas to qualify for each rebate category.
 - 100% of exposed floors must be upgraded, with a minimum of 120 ft2. Exposed floor area may be one large area or multiple smaller areas, such as overhangs and floors above unheated spaces like garages.
 - 100% of crawlspace walls and their headers must be upgraded.
 - 100% of the floor above a crawlspace must be upgraded.
 - At least 80% of foundation headers must be upgraded.
 - At least 50% of basement slabs must be upgraded.
 - At least 20% of **all other areas** must be upgraded. If you upgrade 20% of the area, you will receive 20% of the max rebate.
- For semi-detached or end unit row homes, foundation and exterior wall max rebates are 75% of the amount shown. For a middle unit row home, rebates are 50% of the max amounts shown. There are no rebates available for insulating shared interior walls.
- The max rebate amounts reflect a situation where 100% of the area is one type of structure. For example, if your home is a bungalow and you have only one roof type - a flat attic - you would be eligible for 100% of the flat attic rebate. If your home has different structure types, such as a flat attic and a section of cathedral ceiling, participants are eligible for a portion of the rebate from each of those types if each is upgraded.
- Insulation must be added to the same location as it is present at the time of the pre-retrofit assessment. For example, if there is existing attic floor insulation present and the attic ceiling is insulated, rebates will not be issued.
- If an addition or other change to the heated boundaries of the building is made after the initial assessment, upgrades performed to the new location are ineligible for rebate.
- The National Building Code of Canada requires foam insulation products to be covered by a thermal barrier. Confirm with your contractor that your foam insulation project includes this barrier. It is recommended that you contact your home insurance provider to ensure upgrades are covered by your policy.

Windows and Doors.

Criteria			Rebate per rough opening		
Product Standard	U-factor	Energy Rating (ER)	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total
ENERGY STAR®	1.22 W/m2K or less	34 or more	\$30	\$125	\$155
ENERGY STAR® Most Efficient	1.05 W/m2K or less	40 or more	\$30	\$250	\$280

- Windows and doors must be on the relevant eligible product list. Only ENERGY STAR® certified products are listed. This certification is indicated by a sticker placed on the product.
- Windows and doors must either meet the corresponding minimum U-factor or Energy Rating standard indicated in the above table. These are the minimum requirements to meet ENERGY STAR® criteria in Canada. Products do not need to meet both these standards.
- ENERGY STAR[®] stickers must remain on windows and doors until after the final assessment. This is to confirm the windows and doors are ENERGY STAR[®] certified. If you wish to remove the stickers beforehand, take photos of all windows and doors with the stickers in place and keep the stickers on a piece of paper for the Registered Energy Advisor to review.
- Skylights are ineligible for rebates.
- Replacements of only the glass, sash or door without frames are ineligible for rebates.
- Rebates are issued per rough opening. A rough opening is the structural framing in a wall separating a heated space from an unheated space that creates an opening for the installation of a window or door. For example, a bay window with three window units installed into one rough opening is eligible for only one rebate. Similarly, sidelights and transoms are considered part of the door assembly and do not count as separate windows for rebates.

Eligible Product Lists

Available online at the following links:

Windows	Hinged Doors	Sliding Glass Door

• ENERGY STAR®

- ENERGY STAR®
- ors
- ENERGY STAR®

ENERGY STAR® Most Efficient

• ENERGY STAR® Most Efficient

Heating Equipment.

Air Source Heat Pumps

	Max Rebates				
System Type	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total		
Ductless Mini-Split		\$2,500 if installing 2 indoor heads	\$300-\$8,000		
Heat Pump	\$300/ton	\$5,000 if installing 3 or more indoor heads	\$300-\$10,000		
Mixed Ducted or Ducted	4.0	\$2,500 if installing 2 indoor heads	\$2,500		
Mini-Split Heat Pump	\$0	\$5,000 if installing 3 or more indoor heads	\$5,000		
Central Ducted Heat Pump	\$500/ton	\$5,000	\$500-\$8,000		

Geothermal Heat Pumps

System	Criteria		Max Rebates			
Туре	Minimum Capacity	COP heating	COP cooling	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total
Open Loop		At least 3.1 with 0°C water entering	At least 3.93 with 25°C water entering	\$600/ton for new systems	\$3000 for replacement of the heat pump unit	\$600- \$3,000
Closed Loop	40 kW	At least 3.6 with 10°C water entering	At least 4.75 with 15°C water entering		\$5000 for new full system	\$600- \$8,600

Heat Pump Water Heaters

System	Criteria			Max Rebates		
Size	Product Standard	Energy Factor	Uniform Energy Factor	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total
Less than 56 gallons	ENERGY	At least 2.00 with a first hour rating of at least 50 gallons/hour	At least 2.00 with a first hour rating of at least 45 gallons/hour			
At least 56 gallons	STAR®	At least 2.20 with a first hour rating of at least 50 gallons/hour	At least 2.20 with a first hour rating of at least 45 gallons/hour	\$400	\$1,000	\$1,400

- Heat pumps must be on the relevant eligible product list.
- Replacement heat pumps, functioning or non-functioning, are ineligible for rebate under Home Energy Assessment.
- Replacement heat pumps are eligible for rebate under Canada Greener Homes Grant.
- Direct expansion (DX), water-to-water, and brine-to-water geothermal systems are ineligible for rebate.
- Home Energy Assessment calculates heat pump rebates based on the "Rated Capacity in tons (47°F)". Rebates are pro-rated, based on the ton. A ton is equal to 12,000 BTU/h. If a heat pump(s) is already installed in the home, rebates will be calculated based on the added capacity. For example, an eligible 18,000 BTU/h ductless mini-split heat pump (18,000 BTU/h = 1.5 tons), will result in a \$450 rebate (\$300/ton x 1.5 tons = \$450). See our eligible product list for listed capacities to help estimate your rebate.
- Ducted and mixed ducted/non-ducted mini-split heat pumps are ineligible for rebates through Home Energy Assessment. Slim ducted, compact ducted, or mixed ducted mini split systems are not eligible for rebate under Home Energy Assessment.
- Heat pump installation must be performed by a certified Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic (RACM).

- Heat pump water heater installation must be performed by a certified plumber.
- Indoor heat pump equipment must be installed in conditioned spaces so that it operates as intended.
- Greener Homes rebates will only be issued for heating systems that meet the following criteria:
 - Designed to supply heat to the entire home, including basements where the distance from the top of the floor slab to the bottom of the ceiling joist is 5'11" or taller. This also applies to mezzanine levels with a room with door. At a minimum, there should be one indoor head per floor;
 - Minimum total "Rated Heating Capacity in tons (47°F)" of the system must be 12,000 BTU/h, or 1 ton;
 - Compressors must be of variable capacity with three or more distinct operating speeds, or continuously variable speed; and
- Heat pumps added to existing furnaces are typically not eligible for rebates. If you are considering installing an add-on system, please collect the system's AHRI certification number and call Efficiency Nova Scotia at 1-877-999-6035 to confirm eligibility.

Eligible Product Lists

Available online at the following links:

Air source heat pumps

- <u>Geothermal heat pumps</u> Heat pump water heaters
- <u>Centrally Ducted Air Source Heat Pumps</u>
- Ductless Mini Split Heat Pumps

Wood Burning Equipment

	Criteria		Max Rebates		
Product Type	Cert- ification	EPA or CSA Emissions	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total
Wood Stove or Fireplace Insert			\$500/ ii	A O	\$500
Pellet Stove or Fireplace Insert	CSA-B415.1 -10	Less than 2.5 grams/hour	\$500/unit	\$0	Junit
Wood Boiler or Centrally Ducted Forced Air Furnace	Or US EPA CRF PART 60 AAA	or Less than 0.064 grams/ MJ for total			\$1,000
Pellet Boiler or Centrally Ducted Forced Air Furnace	FART OU AAA	particulate matter	\$1,000/unit	\$0	/unit

- Rebates are not available for the replacement of working equipment. If replacing non-working wood burning equipment, please contact us prior to making your purchase to ensure the new system will meet all our eligibility requirements. For wood/pellet burning equipment, we must receive a letter/email from your contractor stating your old system was non-functional.
- Outdoor wood/pellet furnaces or boilers are ineligible for rebates.
- Installed by or inspected and approved by a Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) Certified Installer/Inspector.

Thermostats

	Max Rebates			
Criteria	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total	
 Must replace a manual thermostat with a programmable or smart/adaptive thermostat. Does not apply to thermostats for newly installed heat pumps. 	ostat.			
• Limited to one thermostat per home.	\$0	\$50	\$50	
• At least one other eligible Canada Greener Homes Grant upgrade must be installed to receive this rebate.				

Ventilation.

		Max Rebates			
Upgrade	Criteria	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total	
	Achieve the air sealing target identified in your recommendation report		\$550	\$750	
Air sealing	Achieve <i>10% better</i> than the air sealing target identified in your recommendation report	\$200	\$810	\$1,010	
	Achieve 20% better than the air sealing target identified in your recommendation report		\$1,000	\$1,200	
Heat recovery ventilator	Install an HVI certified unit (may replace a non-HVI certified unit)	\$300	\$0	\$300	

Important Considerations

- If you've completed the upgrades yourself, you must keep all receipts/invoices for the air sealing materials (e.g. caulking, weather-stripping, etc.).
- Air sealing targets of 10% and 20% above the target set out in your recommendation report are more likely to be achieved with the assistance of an air sealing professional.
- In some instances, performing air sealing may result in inadequate ventilation, which may be detrimental to the house and its occupants. Please seek additional information from your Registered Energy Advisor and a qualified ventilation contractor.

Solar Photovoltaic Systems.

Need help? Planning multiple upgrades?

Speak with one of our Energy Solutions Advisors at 1-877-999-6035 or <u>info@efficiencyns.ca</u> to explore how to best maximize rebates across our programs.

Criteria			Max Rebates				
Peak Power Capacity	Certification	Installation	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total		
At least 1.0 kW DC	Must be comprised of one or more PV panels and inverter(s) certified to <u>CSA Standards</u>	Must be installed by an <u>approved Efficiency</u> <u>Nova Scotia solar</u> <u>photovoltaic</u> <u>installer</u>	\$0	\$1,000/kW	\$1,000/kW		

- First-time installations and additions to existing system are eligible for rebate. For additions to qualify, existing system must be installed and operational at the time of the initial energy assessment.
- It is recommended that you have a qualified solar photovoltaic professional assess your home and identify it as "Solar Ready" before your initial home energy assessment.
- Solar panels can be mounted on the house or ground, as long as they are on the property / land of the house associated with your application.
- It is recommended that roof-top installations, both grid-connected and off-grid, be done in accordance with SPE-900-13 Solar photovoltaic rooftop-installation best practices guideline developed by CSA.
- Customers or installers must consult the local municipality to ensure they obtain necessary building permits for all installations.
- For grid connected systems, a copy of the letter of approval or permission for interconnection issued by the local electrical or building authority is required.

- For an off-grid system, you should ensure that the system was designed and installed in accordance with local building and electrical requirements and codes.
- Rebates are pro-rated based on the added capacity to the house. For example, a 3.5 kW system would receive a \$3,500 rebate.
- Participation in the Home Energy Assessment and Canada Greener Homes Grant programs precludes customers from receiving solar photovoltaic rebates for the same system through Efficiency Nova Scotia's SolarHomes program. Only rebates from one program will be issued for this upgrade. Please refrain from submitting a SolarHomes Project Application if you are enrolled in Home Energy Assessment and plan to receive the Canada Greener Homes Grant rebate noted above. For more information on SolarHomes, please visit efficiencyns.ca/residential/programs-services/solar-homes/

Climate Change Resiliency.

To receive any of the following climate change resiliency rebates, at least one other eligible Canada Greener Homes Grant upgrade must be installed. Please note that upgrades that are only rebated through Home Energy Assessment, such as wood burning equipment and heating recovery ventilators, do not count.

Batteries

Criteria			Max Rebates			
Minimum Total Rated Capacity	Rating	Certification	Connection	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total
4,500 Watt hours at 20 hours	Deep cycle	CSA C22.2 107.1 or CSA C22.2 62109	Must be connected to a permanently mounted solar photovoltaic system. Portable batteries and electric vehicles are ineligible.	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000

- Rebates are available for new battery systems, replacement of existing batteries, or to supplement an existing battery system.
- The installation or inspection of a battery back-up system must be undertaken by a licenced and trained professional.
- An electrical permit for the installation of batteries and any related equipment or work must be obtained, as required.

Roofing Membrane

Criteria			Max Rebates		
Certification	Coverage	Installation	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total
ASTM D1970 / D1970M Or CSA A123.22	100% of the roof that covers enclosed spaces, including attached garages	Must be a self-adhering product	\$0	\$150	\$150

Additional Eligibility Criteria

- The self-adhering underlayment should be compatible with the type of roof. For example, metal roofs may require a self-adhering underlayment that withstands higher temperatures.
- The application of a self-adhering underlayment can increase the risk of condensation forming under the roof surface. Consult your contractor to reduce the risk of moisture accumulation in the roof assembly. Ensure adequate roof venting is present in all types of roofs.
- Torched on membranes and flat roofs are ineligible, as a roofing membrane is already part of a standard flat roof installation.

Basement Wall Waterproofing

Criteria		Max Rebates		
Coverage	Installation	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total
At least 80% of below-grade wall area	Exterior side of below-grade basement walls must be covered with a rubberized or polymer membrane	\$0	\$875	\$875

Additional Eligibility Criteria

- Crawlspace and slab-on-grade foundations are ineligible.
- Party walls between semi-detached homes do not require waterproofing.
- Verify that products used are specified for waterproofing. Simple paint brush or roller applied interior sealants are considered damp/moisture-proofing membranes and are ineligible for rebate as they are not rated to withstand hydrostatic pressure.

Crawlspace Moisture Proofing

Criteria		Max Rebates		
Coverage	Installation	Home Energy Assessment	Greener Homes	Total
100% of the floors, walls, and headers of all crawlspaces	Moisture barrier must be continuous, with all seams, edges and penetrations sealed with suitable materials such as tape and caulking	\$0	\$600	\$600

- All closed and vented crawlspaces are eligible for rebate.
- When a crawlspace is attached to a basement, the moisture barrier must be sealed to the connecting basement foundation floors and walls. If there is a structural or full wall between the two spaces, with or without an access hatch, the common wall must be moisture proofed.
- Wall and header insulation, such as closed-cell spray foam, may qualify for both moisture proofing and insulation rebates.

Customer Invoice Example.

Efficiency Nova Scotia requires copies of your **paid** contractor invoices and any other receipts applicable to rebate eligible upgrades. You will need to supply these documents to your Registered Energy Advisor at your final energy assessment.

To avoid unnecessary delays with rebate processing, please ensure your invoice contains the information outlined in the invoice example below, as applicable to your project.

Date Invoice Number Installation Date

Installer Contact Name Company Name Street Address City, Postal Code Phone Customer Name Street Address City, Postal Code Phone

Quantity	Description		Unit Price
1	Insulation Area insulated Starting R-value	Final R-value Air sealing work	\$X,XXX.XX
1	Ductless mini-split heat pump New or replacement unit(s) Location(s) of indoor unit(s) Manufacturer(s) Full Outdoor Model(s)	Full Indoor Model(s) Furnace Model (applicable to central systems) AHRI Number(s)	\$X,XXX.XX
1	Wood Stove Manufacturer Model number		\$X,XXX.XX
1	Solar photovoltaic system Installed capacity		\$XX,XXX.XX
2	ENERGY STAR® windows Manufacturer(s) U-factors	Energy Ratings	\$X,XXX.XX
1	Labour		\$X,XXX.XX
	Subtotal		\$XX,XXX.XX
	HST		\$X,XXX.XX
	Total Due		\$XX,XXX.XX
	Balance		\$0 (paid in full)

Installer Certification Credentials

Technician Name

RACM Certificate Number for heat pumps

WETT Certificate Number for wood burning equipment

Other applicable credentials



Last Updated: December 2022