

April 9, 2009

Cash rebates will help Albertans be more energy efficient

Edmonton... A new provincial consumer incentive program for energy efficient purchases will help Alberta build a culture of conservation.

The province is investing \$36 million in consumer rebates to help Albertans reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the three-year program, rebates are available to existing homeowners who improve their energy efficiency, to new home buyers who purchase energy efficient homes and to taxi operators who are transitioning their fleet to hybrid vehicles.

Eligible purchases, which are retroactive to January 1, 2009, include:

- new homes that achieve a high level of energy efficiency;
- energy evaluations for homeowners to assess the current energy efficiency of their home and to measure its efficiency after home improvements are made; and
- efficient home heating systems, hot water heating systems, clothes washers and insulation upgrades.

"Albertans know they have a role to play, and this program makes it a little easier for all of us to take action," said Rob Renner, Minister of Environment. "Buying an energy efficient washing machine or improving your home's insulation are also great ways for Albertans to commit to One Simple Act for the environment," said Renner.

By choosing more efficient products, the consumer rebate program is expected to help Albertans reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by almost one million tonnes, which is the equivalent to taking more than 200,000 cars off the road for a year.

The rebate program will be run by Climate Change Central, a non-profit organization created in 2000 to empower Albertans to take action on climate change. For specific information on what purchases are eligible and how to apply for a rebate, visit www.ClimateChangeCentral.com, or call toll free at 1-888-537-7202.

Energy efficient incentives for consumers align with the direction set out for Alberta's Provincial Energy Strategy and Alberta's Climate Change Strategy.

Backgrounder

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Alberta energy efficiency rebate program details

Who can apply	What's eligible	Rebate value
*New home buyers	New homes -must achieve a higher energy efficiency standard (an EnerGuide efficiency rating of 80 or higher)	\$1,500-10,000
*Homeowners	High efficiency heating systems -includes furnaces or boilers	\$400-600
*Homeowners	Clothes washers -all ENERGY STAR® clothes washers	\$100
*Homeowners	Insulation -upgrading insulation based on ecoENERGY home evaluation	Up to \$3,150
*Homeowners	Hot water heaters -energy efficient models based on ecoENERGY home evaluation	\$250-300
*Homeowners	Energy evaluation -federal ecoENERGY home evaluation	\$100 pre-retrofit evaluation \$100 post-retrofit evaluation
**Taxi owners and operators	Gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle	Up to \$3,000

*Eligible purchases for new home buyers and homeowners are retroactive to January 1, 2009.

**Taxi-operator hybrid rebates are retroactive to July 1, 2008.

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