



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program

Overview

The US Department of Energy provides federal stimulus funds for states to provide rebates for ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances. More than 70 percent of the energy used in homes is for appliances, refrigeration, space heating, cooling and water heating. Replacing old appliances and equipment with ENERGY STAR equipment can help American families lower their energy use and reduce their energy bills.

Each state appliance rebate program will be unique. Each state has specific energy needs and the flexibility to design a program for its residents.

Implementation

Beginning January 1, 2010, the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) will have \$3.6 million of federal stimulus funds to provide low-income Oregon homeowners with an instant rebate of 70 percent (up to \$2,000) for ENERGY STAR qualified heating systems. The Oregon Department of Energy will partner with Oregon Housing and Community Services and the Community Action Programs (CAPs) which will provide an additional assistance benefit. For the qualified homeowner, 100 percent of the cost will be covered.

This appliance program for low-income households was selected as Oregon has a Residential Energy Tax Credit incentive program for Oregonians who purchase high efficiency appliances.

Who is eligible for the Appliance Rebate?

Eligible homeowners in Oregon are those earning less than 60 percent of the state's median income levels. You must be the home owner. Following is a table of that income level depending upon the number of people in the household.

2010 Income Guidelines for Oregon

Size of family unit	Annual income 60% of median	Monthly income 60% of median
1	\$21,093	\$1,757.75
2	\$27,583	\$2,298.58
3	\$34,073	\$2,839.42
4	\$40,563	\$3,380.25
5	\$47,053	\$3,921.08
6	\$53,543	\$4,461.92
7	\$54,760	\$4,563.32
8	\$55,977	\$4,664.73
9	\$57,194	\$4,766.14
10	\$58,411	\$4,867.55
11	\$59,629	\$4,968.95
12	\$60,844	\$5,070.36
each additional member	\$1,217	\$101.42

What is ODOE's goal?

ODOE expects the appliance rebate program to replace and recycle approximately 1,800 nonfunctioning or low-efficiency furnaces and heat pumps across the state for eligible households.

How do I apply for this appliance rebate program?

If you qualify (see section on eligibility), you should contact your local [Community Action Program](#) (CAP) agency. (This link provides the name of the CAP Agency by county, the phone number and address.) The appliance rebate program will be efficiently administered through the existing low-income energy assistance and weatherization program.

FACT SHEET 2010

How do I apply? *Continued*

The CAP agency representative will determine if your heating system is in need of replacement, determine the type of heating system (brand and model) to be installed and arrange for a CAP-certified contractor to install the new system. Once the system is installed, it will be inspected. The Oregon Department of Energy rebate will pay directly for 70 percent of the equipment (up to \$2,000). The CAP agency will pay the contractor directly for the remaining equipment costs including installation. The homeowner will be asked to sign a release for the rebate voucher funds, but will not have to pay any out-of-pocket costs.

What if I don't want to go through the CAP?

Eligible homeowners who choose not to obtain the voucher through the CAP and can pay all of the up-front costs of the heating equipment and installation in full, can also qualify for the rebate voucher for 70 percent of the equipment cost (up to \$2,000) as a reimbursement. Remaining equipment cost and installation would be at the homeowner's expense and is not reimbursable by the CAP, Oregon Housing and Community Services or the Oregon Department of Energy. Homeowners who choose not to go through a CAP, should call contact OHCS toll-free at 1-800-453-5511.

How long will these funds last?

The funds are expected to cover 1,800 heating systems. The Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon Housing and Community Services and local CAP agencies are anticipating that there are many qualified households and will be working as efficiently as possible to ensure that these homes are served as soon as possible. The cold weather months are here. CAP agencies focus on replacing non-functioning heating systems first and then on low-efficiency systems.

Do all counties get equal access to the funds?

Initially, a portion of the funds are being distributed on a population basis. After the first six months, more funds will be distributed as the CAP agencies request them. This is a statewide program so all counties in the state will have access to funds.

How do contractors become CAP-certified?

Contractors should contact local [CAP agencies](#) to inquire about becoming certified to do work for the CAP.

Why was this program selected and not one that all Oregonians could access, such as a rebate on new energy-efficient refrigerators?

Oregon already has a financial incentive program for refrigerators (and other energy-efficient appliances) in the [Residential Energy Tax Credit](#) program. All Oregonians can take advantage of the Residential Energy Tax Credit program.

CAP agencies have had limited funding that is insufficient to meet current needs to replace non-functioning and low-efficiency heating systems for low-income households. This program will allow CAPs to replace such systems and Oregonians in need of assistance to save on future energy use and energy costs.

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