



Save Money With AHFC's Home



Energy Efficiency Programs

Alaska's government has spent an estimated \$110 million since 2008 for better insulation, new furnaces, and other retrofits for roughly 16,500 homeowners. The spending was under the Home Energy Rebate Program, administered by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and is intended to help Alaskans reduce their energy bills by making energy-efficient improvements to their homes.

On average, people who have participated in the Home Energy Rebate Program have realized a 33 percent decrease in energy related costs. It is a program CVEA wants to make sure you, our member owners, are aware of so we've included details of the program in this issue.

The Home Energy Rebate Program is not based on income. The program was created to rebate homeowners some of the expenses in making energy-efficiency improvements to their homes. The program will rebate up to \$10,000 to a homeowner who improves the energy efficiency of his or her home. This is a one-time rebate for any year-round occupant of an owner-occupied residence, regardless of income.

There are six steps to participate in the Rebate Program:

1. Request a home energy rating. Sign up at www.akrebate.com or contact the AK-REBATE Call Center at 1-877-257-3228. Due to the popularity of the program, there is typically a wait. As of the date this article was written, the wait was approximately two months. You may check back on the website or the Call Center to find your place on the waiting list.
2. Get the As-Is, AKWarm energy rating. A rater will call to schedule and perform the first energy rating. This rating basically takes a 'snapshot' of your home's energy efficiency level. The rater will look at house dimensions, measure doors and windows, check insulation levels, assess your heating and water heating systems and run a blower-door test to measure and locate drafts inside your home; it does not include appliances or lighting. The rating typically requires two-four hours. You will pay the rater up front; rater fees vary so ask for their rate. If you would like a different rater, contact the Call Center.
3. Submit all required paperwork to AHFC. Approximately one to two weeks after the rating you will receive a Home Energy Rating Certificate, Energy Improvement Options report, and the As-Is reimbursement form. Submit this paperwork and other required documents to AHFC. At this time the homeowner will be reimbursed up to \$325 of the rating cost and be officially entered into the program. AHFC will set aside funds to cover up to \$10,000 for the pending energy-efficiency improvements. From this time, you have 18 months to complete the remaining steps of the program.
4. Make the Energy-Efficiency Improvements. Use the Energy Efficiency Improvement Options Report as a guideline for doing your improvement work. The



Points	Rating	Points	Rating
0-39	1 Star	73-77	3 Star +
40-49	1 Star +	78-82	4 Star
50-59	2 Star	83-87	4 Star +
60-67	2 Star +	88-91	5 Star
68-72	3 Star	92-100	5 Star +

improvements listed may range from low-cost weatherstripping to higher-cost heating system replacement. (If you are concerned with having enough money to complete improvements, AHFC loans of up to \$30,000 are available to qualified borrowers through the Second Mortgage for Energy Conservation to help with energy improvements. Visit www.ahfc.us/energy for information).

Keep in mind, only those improvements recommended by your rater in the Improvement Options Report will be eligible for a rebate.

You must get enough points to move up the energy rating scale in order to qualify. The amount of the rebate is determined by the points and step increase in the home's energy rating. The more the home moves up the rating scale, the greater the rebate; however, a homeowner is only eligible to receive a rebate of actual expenses incurred. See the chart above to help you understand the correlation between your energy rating points and the energy rating steps for your home's energy rating, i.e., going from a 2 Star to a 2 Star+ is increasing by one step and would receive a rebate of up to \$4,000 based on actual expenditures.

- Request the Second Rating. When your improvements are completed, contact the AK-REBATE Call Center at 1-877-257-3228 or sign-up online at www.akrebate.com to get on the list for a second rating. This second rating is called a Post-Improvement energy rating. Once complete, the rater will send you a new Home Energy Rating Certificate and rebate form. You are required to pay your rater for this service. AHFC will reimburse you for up to \$175 of the cost of this rating.
- Apply for the Rebate. If you increased at least one step and the minimum number of points from your As-Is rating to your Post-Improvement rating, you may receive a rebate.

Maximum Rebate Amounts:

- One Step - Up to \$4,000
- Two Steps - Up to \$5,000
- Three Steps - Up to \$7,000
- Four Steps - Up to \$8,500
- Five or more - Up to \$10,000

Send the rebate form and required documents to AHFC to receive your rebate and Post-Improvement energy rating reimbursement. This step must be completed within 18 months from the time you submitted the As-Is rating paperwork. Your reimbursement and improvement rebate will be received in approximately 60 days.

For additional information on the Rebate program visit www.ahfc.us/energy or call 1-800-478-2432. ■

AHFC Weatherization Program

AHFC also administers a Weatherization Program. Individuals who meet income guidelines may apply for the Weatherization Program through the weatherization service provider in their area.

Homeowners and renters may apply. The weatherization provider will provide program services at no cost to qualified applicants.

Please note: Individuals may not participate in both the Weatherization Program and the Home Energy Rebate Program. Please choose the program that is the most appropriate for your situation.

Visit www.ahfc.us/energy/ weatherization to find out if you qualify for the program

Qualifying individuals may call the weatherization provider for our area to check full eligibility requirements and apply for the program:

-Alaska Community Development Corporation
(800) 478-8080

www.alaskacdc.org

-CRB Regional Housing Authority
(907) 822-3633

Once accepted into the program, you will be put on a waiting list, and your home will be scheduled for a weatherization assessment. The assessment determines the weatherization measures to be performed. When you come to the top of the list, your home will be scheduled for the completion of the weatherization work.