



Save Money With AHFC's Home Energy Efficiency Programs



Fall is in the air and no one wants to think about winter, but CVEA encourages members to complete projects now that will mean savings from energy efficiency improvements later when Jack Frost does come nipping at your nose. Becoming more energy efficient is the best way for members to take control of their electric bills, and CVEA wants you to know there are programs that can help.

Alaska's government has spent an estimated \$252.5 million since 2008 for better insulation, new furnaces, and other retrofits for roughly 23,500 homeowners. This spending was under the Home Energy Rebate Program, administered by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), 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.

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 rebate for any year-round occupant of an owner-occupied residence, regardless of income.

There are several steps to participate in the Rebate Program:

1. Choose an energy rater that works in your area. AHFC

recommends you contact several raters to determine who will best meet your individual needs.

2. Request a home energy rating. You can sign up at www.akrebate.com or contact the AK-REBATE Call Center at 1-877-257-3228.
3. Get the As-Is, AKWarm energy rating. Once dispatched, 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 are required to pay the rater for the As-Is rating up front; rater fees vary so ask for their rate. From this date, you will have 18 months to complete the remaining steps of the program.
4. 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. Please note: you will have 90 days from the day you were dispatched to submit your paperwork. At this

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 +

time the homeowner will be reimbursed up to \$325 of the initial rating cost and be officially entered into the program.

5. Make the Energy-Efficiency Improvements. Use the Energy Efficiency Improvement Options Report as a guideline for doing your improvement work. The 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, the energy rating steps for your home's energy rating, and each step that can be achieved.

6. 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; the Rater will contact you to schedule your 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.
7. 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. For example, 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.

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.

To find out if you qualify for the program, visit www.ahfc.us/energy/weatherization.

Qualifying individuals may contact the weatherization provider for their area to check full eligibility requirements and apply for the program.

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.

Priority shall be given to the elderly, persons with disabilities/handicapped, with children under six years old, those in the lowest income households, and in case of emergency.

Copper Basin

Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority
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Valdez

North Pacific Rim Housing Authority
www.nprha.com