

Grants and Incentives for Your Green Renovation

Homeowners who want to carry out “green renovations” on their home may be eligible for financial help from government. Many measures aimed at reducing energy and water usage may qualify homeowners for grants or incentives from one or more levels of government—federal, provincial or municipal.

Whether you want to save on energy, improve the comfort of your home, or do your part for the environment, the refunds can help make your green renovations affordable.

In New Brunswick, Efficiency NB offers incentives to homeowners who are planning to build energy efficient homes. Find out more at www.energycynb.ca or call them at 1-866-643-8833.

The **federal government’s ecoEnergy Retrofit** program offers grants to homeowners on a wide range of upgrades to improve the energy efficiency of their home and reduce the home’s impact on the environment. Eligible upgrades include new heating, ventilation, cooling and domestic hot water systems, insulation, air sealing, doors/windows and skylights, and water conservation. Upgrades are subject to certain restrictions, and in order to qualify, homeowners must first have an energy efficiency assessment performed by a certified energy advisor. Visit www.oeenrcan.gc.ca for details.

Also on the national level, the **Energy-Efficient Housing Program** offers a refund on mortgage insurances premiums when you refinance an existing home to make energy-saving renovations. Check www.cmhc.ca and www.genworth.ca for more information.

Provincial/territorial grants and incentives vary considerably from one region to another, but may include assistance by government and/or utilities for upgraded systems, appliances and lighting, old fridge buy-back programs and incentives for off-peak hour energy consumption. In many cases, upgrading measures eligible for a federal grant will also qualify for additional incentive from a province or utility, increasing your benefits.

Some **municipal governments** have a toilet change-out program to help reduce municipal water and sewer costs. Contact your provincial and municipal governments for information on what’s available to you.

This backgrounder has been prepared by the Canadian Renovators’ Council of the Canadian Home Builders’ Association.