

Tax Credit for Renewable Energy Equipment

Federal income tax credit are available for renewable energy measures installed in 2012. If your expenditures meet the basic requirements listed below, consult a tax professional or see the instructions for IRS form 5695 to determine whether you qualify and calculate the amount of your credit.

Amount of the Tax Credit

30% of qualifying expenses,
 no dollar cap, through 2016

Eligibility Rules

- Property may be taxpayer's primary or secondary residence; may not be a rental.
- Improvements must be put in service by 12/31/16; new and existing homes are eligible
- Any portion of improvement costs paid by a CFU rebate does not qualify for the credit
- Use IRS form 5695 to claim the credit
- Document cost of installed equipment

Qualifying Improvements

- **Solar water heater**
 Certified by Solar Rating & Certification Corp. and at least half of water heating energy must be solar
- **Solar photovoltaic (PV) system**
 Must be code compliant and generate electricity for the residence
- **Small wind turbine**
 Nameplate capacity 100 kilowatts or less
- **Geothermal heat pump**
 Closed loop system EER 14.1 and COP 3.3 min.
 Open loop system EER 16.2 and COP 3.6 min.

Definitions

AFUE	Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (higher rating = greater efficiency)
COP	Co-efficient of Performance
EER	Energy Efficiency Ratio
HSPF	Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (higher number = more efficient heat pump)
IECC	International Energy Conservation Code
SEER	Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating
SHGC	Solar Heat Gain Co-efficient (lower number = better heat-blocking performance.)
TE	Thermal efficiency
U-Factor	Measures heat loss through windows & doors (lower number = more efficient)

Energy Saving Tips

ELECTRIC

- 1 Turn Off:** Just like your parents told you, turn off lights when you leave a room!
- 2 No Spares:** Unplug & recycle any extra refrigerators or freezers.
- 3 Cover that Furnace Filter:** Uncovered filters let dusty basement air into your duct work. Stop dusting, put a lid on it!
- 4 Pull the Plug:** When not being used, pull the plug on any electronics, battery chargers and such to save these seemingly small items from adding up to take as much power as your refrigerator

WATER

- 1 Go Low Flow:** Simple switches to low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads can save up to 75 gallons a month alone!
- 2 Cover Pipes:** Insulate hot water pipes for faster hot water at the faucet. A simple and cheap step!
- 3 Drop in the Bucket:** Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water while it warms up. Use this water for plants and pets instead of letting it run down the drain.
- 4 Cold Clothes:** Washing dark clothes in cold not only saves on hot water costs but also keeps colors bright. Switch from hot to warm to save on other loads.

NATURAL GAS

- 1 Insulate Attic:** Up the R-value upstairs as the most cost-effective improvement for saving gas from heating losses through your roof.
- 2 Cool Your Jets:** Lower the water heater temperature to 120° instead of 140° to save up to 10%.
- 3 Limit Leaks:** Caulk, seal, and weatherstrip all seams, cracks & openings to the outside of your home...doors, windows, pipes, etc
- 4 Turn Down Service:** Turning down the thermostat a few degrees can make a big difference, health permitting. Wear layers to lower your heating bill.