

Residential Energy Affordability Program (REAP) Conserve Nova Scotia

Overview

Conserve Nova Scotia is the provincial government's agency responsible for energy efficiency and conservation. Our Residential Energy Affordability Program (REAP) conducts free energy efficiency upgrades for low income homeowners.

This is a direct-install program. Under REAP the province is split into four areas and an RFP is issued to complete energy evaluations and home upgrades in each area. Bidders must arrange or perform (most often the latter) all energy evaluations and energy efficiency upgrades. We chose this method for the program following our pilot, in which some houses were upgraded using this 'one stop shop' concept, and other houses were upgraded by homeowners working with an energy expert to receive quotes from local contractors. The latter method results in numerous issues, and thus the one-stop-shop method was deemed to be most effective.

Nova Scotia Power Inc. is also involved in REAP by funding the building envelope upgrades (Scope I) on electrically heated homes, and by adding addition electricity-related upgrades (Scope II) to all REAP homes.

Procedures

Following is a very brief run-down of how REAP works:

- RFP for proposals to bid on one of four regions in the Province.
- Awarding of the contracts to REAP delivery agents.
- Receive names of potential participants (low income homeowners) from Department of Community Services. Participants would have applied for and received a RRAP-type grant.
- Introductory letter from Conserve NS to potential participants.
- Delivery agents contact homeowners and conduct ecoENERGY / EnerGuide evaluation.
- Delivery agents submit upgrade spec sheet to Conserve NS for approval.
- Delivery agents conduct upgrades (this may include work of sub-trades, ie. Electricians)
- Delivery agents conduct follow-up ecoENERGY / EnerGuide evaluation.

Scope I Eligible Upgrades

On average, the material and labour costs to upgrade the home's building envelope (Scope I upgrades) is \$5,500 per home. Following is a list of eligible upgrades:

- a. Insulation of basement, crawlspace, exposed floors, main walls and attics/ceilings.
- b. Draft proofing.
- c. Bathroom fans.
- d. Programmable thermostats.
- e. Energy Star-rated dehumidifiers.
- f. CO detectors.
- g. Low flush toilets.

Scope II Eligible Upgrades

In addition to the Scope I upgrades, Nova Scotia Power Inc. also funds the cost for the following upgrades. These upgrades are offered to every home, and REAP delivery agents would have a bid a set price to install each of these measures, where applicable:

- h. Compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.
- i. Replace halogen torchiere floor lamps with CFL compatible fixtures.
- j. Replace high wattage lighting fixtures with CFL compatible fixtures.
- k. Replace unsuitable outdoor porch lights with CFL compatible fixtures.
- l. Insulating blanket for electric hot water heater.
- m. Insulating pipe wrap on exposed pipes.
- n. Low flow showerheads.
- o. Faucet aerators.
- p. Fridge replacement.
- q. Freezer replacement.
- r. Power bars.
- s. Electric kettles.
- t. Educational discussion / presentation.

Homes Completed

We are currently in Phase III of REAP, and expect Phase IV to start in the fall or winter of 2009. Following is an overview of the phases to date:

- 1. REAP Pilot – 105 homes
- 2. REAP Phase II – 200 homes
- 3. REAP Phase III – 450 homes

For REAP Phase IV we are anticipating that Conserve Nova Scotia's budget will remain the same (\$2.3M for 300 homes), and that Nova Scotia Power's budget will increase to \$2.2M (approximately 500 homes + Scope II upgrades to all homes). This will result in a \$4.5M program, and 800 homes being upgraded.

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