



Questions and Answers about Residential Energy Efficiency for Waltham Residents

Where should I begin if I want to make my home or apartment more energy efficient and save money?

A professional energy audit of your residence is available for **FREE**, and will include a detailed inspection and suggested actions that will save you energy and money. **MassSave** provides free state-wide energy audit service. This is where you should begin the process – and utility funding incentives require this. A MassSave telephone representative will ask you a few simple questions about your residence and your income. MassSave will schedule an appointment for a professional energy auditor to visit your home and look from top to bottom for cost-effective ways to save energy. The MassSave auditor will inform you about financial incentives that can substantially reduce or even eliminate the cost of making the recommended energy-saving improvements. Renters will be asked to get written approval of their landlord prior to the audit.

Call MassSave 1-855-838-7817 (www.MassSave.com)

FREE Energy Audit and Free Weatherization & Insulation

If you receive fuel assistance or are otherwise income-eligible, you will be directed to a program run by Menotomy Weatherization of Arlington that includes both the free energy audit and free services including weatherization and insulation.

Menotomy Weatherization 781-316-3436 (for Fuel Assistance customers)

Community Teamwork 877-451-1082 (to get Fuel Assistance & lower rates)

What Utility Financial Incentives are Available to Households in Waltham?

See the table below to see what utility incentives are applicable to your needs. Please note that some incentives will vary based on the type of fuel you use to heat your home. The table is divided into incentives that are the same across all heating fuels, and those specific to gas heating customers, and customer who heat with other fuels such as oil/electric/propane.

| Efficiency Action | Incentive | Comments |
|--|---|---|
| Available To ANY Customer (Regardless of Heating Fuel) | | |
| Insulation of walls, basement, pipes, attic, attic stairs, crawl space and rim joist, and FREE air-sealing | Up to 75% of the cost with a \$2000 maximum rebate; FREE air sealing | Must be done by a MassSave approved contractor |
| Programmable Thermostat (7-Day Energy Star Rated) | Free, when needed | Can be DIY install or by contractor |
| Central A/C or Heat Pump | \$300 \$400 \$500 | ≥ 12 EER AC/Heat Pump ≥ 12.5 EER AC/Heat Pump ≥ 12 EER Ductless Mini-Split |
| Swimming Pool Pump | \$200 | Energy Star rated pump |
| Room Air Cleaner | \$20 | Energy Star rated |
| Energy Star Refrigerator/Freezer | \$50 \$150 | Energy Star required With recycling of old inefficient unit (must be approved by MassSave) |
| For National Grid Gas Heating Customers ONLY | | |
| Hi-Efficiency Gas Warm Air Furnace | \$650 \$500 \$400 | ≥ AFUE of 94% w/ECM ≥ AFUE of 92% w/ECM ≥ AFUE of 92% |
| Gas Boiler | \$1000 \$500 \$200 | ≥ AFUE of 90% (Water) ≥ AFUE of 85% (Water) ≥ AFUE of 82% (Steam) |
| Combined Gas Boiler w/On-Demand Hot Water | \$1600 \$1000 | ≥ AFUE of 90% ≥ AFUE of 85% |
| Indirect Gas Water Heater | \$500 | 20 gallon min tank size |
| Condensing Gas Water Heater | \$500 | ≥ 95% thermal efficiency |
| On-Demand Tankless Gas Water Heater | \$700 | ≥ .82 Energy Factor w/Elec. Ignition |
| Energy-Star Gas Water Heater | \$50 | ≥ .62 Energy Factor |
| Gas Boiler Reset Control | \$200 | Must be a gas boiler |
| Solar Hot Water System | 15% of cost, up to | Must have a back-up gas hot |

| Efficiency Action | Incentive | Comments |
|--|------------------|--|
| | \$1500 | water |
| | | |
| For Oil/Propane/Electric Heating Customers ONLY | | |
| Hot Air Furnace | \$300 | ≥ 83% AFUE Oil ≥ 90% AFUE Propane |
| | \$400 (with ECM) | ≥ 83% AFUE Oil ≥ 92% AFUE Propane |
| Steam Boiler | \$400 | ≥ 82% AFUE Oil or Propane |
| Hot Water Boiler | \$500 | ≥ 85% AFUE Oil or Propane |
| Indirect Water Heater | \$300 | Must replace a freestanding or tankless oil/propane unit |
| Boiler Reset | \$100 | |

What Incentives are there to Convert to Gas Heat?

National Grid has ongoing equipment promotion programs to encourage customers using other heating fuels to switch to high-efficiency natural gas heating. Contact National Grid at 1-877-MyNGrid (877-696-4743).

What State and Federal Tax Credits are there and how do they Work?

Until December 31, 2010, Federal tax provisions provide tax credits of 30% of eligible efficiency investments, up to \$1,500 per year for a primary residence that is an existing home, and not a rental unit.

| Efficiency Action | Required Performance | Installation Costs Eligible? |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Biomass Stoves | ≥ 75 thermal efficiency | Yes |
| Air-Source Heat Pumps | ≥ 12.5 EER Split System ≥ 12 EER Package System | Yes |
| Central A/C | ≥ 13 EER Split System ≥ 12 EER Package System | Yes |
| Hot Water Boiler | ≥ 90 AFUE | Yes |
| Hot Air Furnace (gas or propane) | ≥ 95 AFUE | Yes |
| Hot Air Furnace (oil) | ≥ 90 AFUE | Yes |
| Insulation and Air-Sealing material | | NO (Credit ONLY for material – not installation) |
| Water Heater (gas, oil, propane) | $\geq .82$ energy factor | Yes |
| Electric Heat Pump water heater | ≥ 2.0 energy factor | Yes |
| Window, Doors, Skylights | U-factor and SHGC of 0.30 or below Must meet the IECC | Yes |

Are There Loan Programs that Can Help Finance Energy Efficiency Measures?

Yes! After you receive a MassSave audit of your residence, you will be provided with an application form for the **“HEAT Loan Program”** which offers **0% loans of between \$2,000 and \$15,000 for terms of up to 7 years!** The MassSave auditor will indicate on the form the measures for which your home is eligible for a HEAT loan, such as insulation and air sealing upgrades, duct sealing and insulation, heating system replacement, hot water system replacement, Energy Star thermostats, and Energy Star windows.

Enjoy saving energy, money and the planet!