

Worcester Energy Program Residential Rebate Pilot

FAQ (last updated March 4, 2014)

Q. Who is eligible and for what kind of work?

A. The Pilot provides rebates of up to \$5,000 per residential dwelling unit to Worcester homeowners of 1-4 family buildings for eligible energy efficiency measures. That is maximum \$10,000 for a 2-dwelling unit building, \$15,000 for a 3-family and \$20,000 for a 4-family dwelling! Please see the Program's Rebate Table (at the end of this document) for a list of eligible measures.

Additionally, each residential dwelling unit is eligible for an additional rebate of up to \$5,000 for renewables (solar, combined heat & power, small wind, ground-source heat pump (COP* \geq 3.3), etc.) and/or deep energy efficiency retrofits. These measures must have a proven, demonstrable payback of 10-years or less to be considered. Applicant will need to provide evidence of 10-year payback with the application. "Other Measures" projects may require 3rd party testing/modeling at the applicant's expense. Eligible costs include equipment, associated labor costs, etc. Please call to discuss your project's requirements.

Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ City of Worcester residential buildings with 1-4 dwelling units (lodging houses included)
- ✓ Owner and non-owner occupied
- ✓ Only property owners can sign the application
- ✓ Income level is not an eligibility requirement (but additional incentives for low-income¹ owner-occupied home owners exist)

Q: How do I start the application process?

A: Please read through the Program GUIDE & REQUIREMENTS (see pages 2-7). Call Energy Monster (EM) or Next Step Living (NSL) to schedule your free Mass Save Home Energy Assessment and to obtain your initial EPS (Energy Performance Scorecard) for a \$60+fee. Both are required for you to apply for the Pilot.

Q: What if I already received my Mass Save Assessment and it was not through Energy Monster or Next Step Living?

A: Please read through the Program GUIDE & REQUIREMENTS (see pages 3-4). Please first contact Energy Monster (EM) or Next Step Living (NSL) to determine if you qualify for a new Assessment.

- If yes, schedule your Mass Save Home Energy Assessment and to obtain your initial and projected EPS (Energy Performance Scorecard) for a \$60+fee.
- If you do not qualify for a new Assessment, schedule a visit from Energy Monster or Next Step Living to obtain your initial EPS for a slightly higher fee (\$75+).
 - You will be responsible for providing a copy of the Home Energy Assessment Report with your application. If you do not have a copy of the Home Energy Assessment Report conducted by the other Home Performance Contractor eligible to do Home Energy Assessments (Conservation Services Group), you will need to contact CSG directly to obtain a copy.

¹ Household annual income must not exceed 80% of the median income for Worcester, MA as determined by HUD (see Application form for more information)



Note: Residential Rebate Pilot requires that the owner first takes advantage of all eligible Mass Save incentives before requesting a rebate for the proposed work.

Explanation: Please note that there are 3 authorized companies in the City of Worcester that perform Mass Save Home Energy Assessments – Conservation Services Group, Energy Monster and Next Step Living (<http://www.masssave.com/residential/home-energy-assessments>). However, only 2 of them (Energy Monster and Next Step Living) have been contracted with the City to provide you with the Energy Performance Scorecard. All three companies can also (but do not have to) be hired to do “implementation” of selected energy efficiency measures (e.g. insulation / air sealing work) recommended in the Assessment.

Please see <http://www.masssave.com/residential/home-energy-assessments/about-home-energy-assessments/working-with-a-contractor> for more information.

Q. Do we have a list of approved contractors?

A. No. However we recommend you obtain at least three contractor quotes for any work you decide to pursue. All hired contractors must be licensed and must obtain a Building Permit for the planned work. Websites like Angie’s list (<http://www.angieslist.com/>) and HomeAdvisor (<http://www.servicemagic.com/>) can be helpful to find local contractors.

Q. Are Do-It-Yourself (DIY) projects eligible?

A. Yes, DIY projects are eligible, but for material costs only. All necessary permits (as applicable) must still be completed. Invoices estimates for the materials to be purchased need to be included with the application. DIY labor costs are not eligible for a Pilot rebate.

Q. What if I don’t have two years’ worth of energy bills?

A. We do require documentation of two years’ worth of energy bills. You can obtain these by calling your local utility and/or oil dealer or requesting these documents online. Please see the Pilot Guide for contact information for select providers. However, if you haven’t owned/lived at the property for that long, you only need to provide energy bills for the time you (or your tenants) have owned/lived in the building.

Q. How do I know if I am pre-approved for the rebate?

A. After you submit your application, program staff will review your application for completeness. If you are found to be eligible, you will receive a letter indicating that your application has been accepted and the amount of money that has been reserved for implementing the approved energy efficiency measures from your application.

Q. How long will it take to get my money?

A. Rebates are processed in the order in which they are received. The typical turnaround time after receiving your Rebate Request form (which is to be submitted after work completion) is 3 – 6 weeks.

Q. When does this program end?

A. Funds are reserved for eligible applicants on a first come, first served basis.



WORCESTER ENERGY

Residential Rebate Pilot - Rebate Table

Eligible Work (includes Equipment, Associated Labor Costs, etc.):		Rebate Amounts:
Heating & Cooling	Water Boilers (Gas/Propane with AFUE* \geq 90%; Oil with AFUE* \geq 85%) Steam Boilers (AFUE* \geq 82%) Warm Air Furnace (Gas/Propane with AFUE* \geq 95%; Oil with AFUE* \geq 83%) Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump** (EER* \geq 12; HSPF* \geq 8.2; SEER* \geq 16)	up to \$3,000 ¹
Insulation and Air Sealing	Closed cell foam and dense-pack cellulose	up to \$2,000 ¹
Domestic Hot Water	On Demand; Heat Pump; Indirect Water Heater	up to \$1,500 ¹
Heating & Cooling	Air Source Heat Pump (EER* \geq 12, SEER* \geq 14.5, HSPF* \geq 8.2)	
= Total not to exceed \$5,000 per dwelling unit		
Other Measures: In addition to the above rebates, energy efficiency or renewable measures not listed above may be eligible for another \$5,000 maximum, not to exceed a total 50% of net costs.		
Eligible projects may include but are not limited to: Renewables (solar, combined heat & power, small wind, ground-source heat pump (COP* \geq 3.3), etc.); deep energy efficiency retrofits; etc. These measures must have a <u>proven, demonstrable, payback of 10-years or less</u> to be considered. Applicant will need to provide evidence of 10-year payback with the application. "Other Measures" projects may require 3rd party testing/modeling. Eligible costs include equipment, associated labor costs, etc. Please call to discuss your project's requirements.		up to \$5,000 ¹
Notes: 1) Rebates cannot exceed total net costs (e.g. gross costs less eligible & received MassSave/other energy efficiency incentives) for labor and materials for each project. EPS (Energy Performance Scorecard) costs are rebate eligible. 2) Low-income individual owners can be reimbursed up to 100% of net costs up to \$5,000 per dwelling unit (see the Pilot Guide & Requirements for additional information). 3) Open to owner and non-owner occupied 1-4 existing residential dwelling units, regardless of income. 4) The final determination of eligibility is made by Worcester Energy Program Manager, in their discretion, based on your application and the availability of funds. * AFUE - Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency; COP - Coefficient of Performance; EER—Energy Efficiency Ratio; HSPF - Heating Seasonal Performance Factor; SEER—Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio. **Ductless Mini-Split cooling only units are not eligible.		
Please see the Pilot Guide & Requirements for more information and to learn how to apply! (www.worcesterenergy.org)		

Last revised 02/13/2014