

Pennsylvania (PA) Home Heating Equipment Rebate FAQs

What is the Home Heating Equipment Rebate Program?

Using an \$11 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Pennsylvania is offering rebates for non-electric home heating and water heating equipment. Leveraged with the existing utility rebate and manufacturer rebates that may be available for appliances, these programs will allow for a wide array of appliance and equipment rebates for consumers. For more information on the federal guidelines for the Home Heating Equipment Rebate Program, please see www.energysavers.gov/rebates.

Where can residents find official information about this program?

Pennsylvania's program is still in development; therefore, not many details are available for residents at this time. The Department of Environmental Protection is currently working to identify a vendor to administer the rebate program. We invite you to check www.recovery.pa.gov for more information beginning in March 2010.

For information regarding the utilities' rebate programs, please visit www.dep.state.pa.us and click the Energy Rebates button.

What specific equipment will be eligible for a rebate through Pennsylvania's program?

The commonwealth's Home Heating Equipment rebates will cover non-electric home heating equipment, specifically: gas storage water heaters, gas tankless water heaters, oil furnaces, gas furnaces, oil boilers, and gas boilers.

How much will the rebates be for?

The rebates will range from \$250–\$500, depending on the efficiency of the equipment.

Will the Pennsylvania Home Heating Equipment Rebate Program be offering rebates on air conditioning equipment, electric heating equipment, or appliances like refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes washers?

Only the non-electric heating equipment specifically listed above will be eligible for rebates under this program. They also must meet the energy efficiency standards that are required by the program. (Check www.recovery.pa.gov in March for more details about efficiency requirements.)

Do other rebate programs exist for appliances Pennsylvania residents?

All regulated electric utility companies are currently offering or will be offering rebates on appliances like refrigerators and dishwashers. For information regarding the utilities' rebate programs, please visit www.dep.state.pa.us and click the Energy Rebates button, or contact your local electric provider.

In addition, some manufacturers offer their own rebates—residents can search for these by going to www.energystar.gov and entering their zip codes into the Rebate Finder tool (located under the "Products" heading). There are also federal tax credits available for some energy efficient equipment. Residents can see what's available by going to www.ase.org and clicking on the "Consumers" link. For low interest loans for energy efficiency improvements to your home, please visit www.keystonehelp.com.

Why did Pennsylvania choose non-electric heating equipment for its program? And why isn't equipment that burns solid fuels like pellet stoves included?

The US Department of Energy asked states to develop rebate programs based on what items would give their residents the most energy savings. Coupled with the fact that rebates for appliances are already available from most electric companies in the state, in northeastern states like Pennsylvania, heating is what consumes the biggest share of energy and costs the most money for the majority of residents. Focusing on home heating equipment is how Pennsylvania can make the biggest impact for residents trying to save money and make their homes more energy efficient. Pellet stoves and other solid fuel burning equipment are not included because the Department of Energy's rebate program is for Energy Star equipment. The purpose is to promote Energy Star rated equipment that met rigorous test methods

for Energy Star labeling. This type of equipment is not energy star rated nor eligible under the DOE criteria.

Will qualifying heating equipment installed in homes under construction be eligible for rebates?

Only equipment purchased to replace existing less-efficient heating equipment will be eligible for rebates.

Can rebates be applied to heating equipment purchased for rental or vacation properties?

No. Rebates will only be available to homeowners for the purchase of heating equipment for primary residences.

Will rebates be available for recently purchased equipment?

Rebates will not be retroactive, only qualified replacement equipment purchased during the program period will be eligible for a rebate.

When will the program be opening?

The program will open sometime in April 2010 and will continue until funds are depleted. Residents may be able to “reserve” rebates once the program opens, but details about this aren’t available at this time. Again, we invite you to check www.recovery.pa.gov beginning in March for more details.

Reference Links:

Pennsylvania’s Recovery Act website: www.recovery.pa.gov

US Department of Energy: www.energysavers.gov/financial

PA Department of Environmental Protection: www.depweb.state.pa.us

Energy Star: www.energystar.gov

Alliance to Save Energy: www.ase.org