



# FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND LOANS FOR ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

Before you sign up for an energy assessment or engage a contractor to install energy improvements, contact our [Energy Smart Expert](#) about financial assistance programs and loans that may be right for you. Programs are available for renters, homeowners, and landlords. Income-eligible households may qualify for free or reduced-cost energy-saving improvements.

- If you receive public assistance such as HEAP, you are automatically eligible for Weatherization Assistance and EmPower New York. This program is available for renters and homeowners through [Action for a Better Community](#). \*Please note that there is a waiting list for this program.
- If you own your home and your household income is less than \$76,752 for a family of four (or \$42,400 for a single-person household), you are eligible for financial incentives through the [Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program](#).
- All homeowners in Rochester may apply for reduced-cost insulation and air sealing through the [NYSERDA Comfort Home Program](#), support for clean heating and cooling through [Sustainable Homes Rochester](#), and rebates on air- or ground-source heat pumps through RG&E.

Contact our [Energy Smart Expert](#) to learn if you qualify for the following programs. We can provide more information and guidance to help you to take advantage of these opportunities.

## Free or Reduced-Cost Energy Improvements

### Weatherization Assistance

The Weatherization Assistance Program provides free energy-efficiency improvements to income-eligible households for both homeowners and renters. Typical improvements include adding insulation, stopping air leaks, and other repairs to improve energy efficiency, comfort, and safety. A home energy assessment will identify the most cost-effective improvements.

Contact our [Energy Smart Expert](#) for more information.

### Program Requirements and Limitations:

- Households must be income-eligible. Income limits are based on household size.
- Houses and apartments that received Weatherization Assistance within the past 15 years are not eligible.

## EmPower New York

The EmPower New York program assists income-eligible homeowners and renters with energy efficiency improvements such as replacement of inefficient appliances and new energy-efficient lighting, as well as insulation and air sealing.

If your household may be eligible for EmPower, contact [Action for a Better Community](#), [NeighborWorks](#) or [PathStone](#) or fill out an application through the NYSERDA website. Contact our [Energy Smart Expert](#) for more information.

### Program Requirements and Limitations:

- Households must be income-eligible. Income limits are based on household size.
- The person who pays the utility bill must be a resident of the household.

Rochester  
2031  
MOVING FORWARD

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## Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

The Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program will cover 50% of the cost of energy-efficiency improvements up to \$5,000 per project for income-qualified households. Two- to four-unit buildings with income-eligible residents may qualify for a discount of up to \$10,000.

The first step is to schedule a free home energy assessment with a participating contractor that is certified by the Building Performance Institute (BPI.) These contractors are specially trained, insured, and subject to quality reviews by NYSERDA. The contractor will identify energy-efficiency improvements that are most cost-effective and those that will improve the comfort and safety of your home. These may include lighting, air sealing, insulation, and recommendations for clean heating and cooling equipment.

The contractor will prepare a work program and cost estimate for an improvement package that is eligible for the incentives. Loans are available to pay for the improvements over a period of 5, 10, or 15 years.

### Program Requirements and Limitations:

- Available to [income-eligible](#) homeowners and owners of two- to four-unit residential buildings with income-eligible residents
- Owners must work with a participating contractor

## Comfort Home

New York's Comfort Home Program provides incentives of up to \$1,000 to seal air leaks and upgrade insulation in ceilings, floors, and walls, and incentives of up to \$4,000 for a package of upgrades that includes installation of high-performance windows. All homeowners are eligible.

The first step is to schedule a free home energy assessment to identify sources of air leaks and evaluate the home's existing insulation, ventilation, windows, and heating equipment.

The contractor will prepare a work program and cost estimate for an improvement package that is eligible for the incentives. Loans are available to pay for the improvements over a period of 5, 10, or 15 years.

After completing a short survey, NYSERDA will connect interested homeowners with a participating contractor or [select a contractor](#) who will help you complete an application.

If you decide to install a heat pump for heating and cooling, additional [rebates](#) are available from RG&E.

### Program Requirements and Limitations:

- Available to income-eligible homeowners and owners of two- to four-unit residential buildings with income-eligible residents
- Building owners must work with a participating contractor

## Sustainable Homes Rochester

The [Sustainable Homes Rochester](#) program offers information and assistance for homeowners interested in clean heating and cooling with air- or ground-source heat pumps.

For more information, visit [Sustainable Homes Rochester](#).

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## Financing (Loan) Programs

New York State offers several types of financing options to help building owners pay for the improvements over a period of time. Each of these loan programs requires a credit application and borrowers must meet certain qualifying criteria.

### On-Bill Recovery Loan

With On-Bill Recovery Loan, your monthly payments may not exceed your estimated average monthly energy cost savings. Your loan payments are built right into your utility bill so you will not have an extra bill each month. Your energy savings essentially pay for your work.

- Your loan payment is paid through your utility bill.
- Interest rates are subject to change. Check the [NYSERDA](#) website for current rates [\*3.49% in January 2021].
- Loan amounts available from \$1,500 - \$25,000 with loan terms of 5, 10, or 15 years.
- Balance may be transferred to a new owner when the home is sold.
- The owner of the home must be named on the utility account.

### Smart Energy Loan

The Smart Energy Loan is a traditional loan that you repay monthly via check or automatic payment (ACH).

- Interest rates are subject to change. Check the [NYSERDA](#) website for current rates [\*3.49% in January 2021].
- Loan amounts available from \$1,500 - \$25,000 with loan terms of 5, 10, or 15 years.
- If you sell or transfer your property, you remain responsible for the balance of the loan.
- You must own the home or be an authorized representative of the property owner.

### Renewable Energy Tax Credit Bridge Loan

The Renewable Energy Tax Credit Bridge Loan is a short-term loan product that enables you to finance federal and state tax credits and the NYC Real Property Tax Abatement for eligible renewable energy system products.

### Companion Loan

The Companion Loan can be used in conjunction with an On-Bill Recovery or Smart Energy Loan to access additional financing for projects that exceed the \$25,000 cap on those loans. This is a traditional loan that you repay via automatic payment (ACH) or check.