



## **New Homes Program**

### **GUIDELINES**

*Effective February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009*



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# 1. Objective

The objective of **Efficiency NB's New Homes Program** is to promote the construction of highly efficient new homes, thereby helping New Brunswickers:

- reduce their energy consumption,
- save money through lower home heating costs, and
- lessen the impact of energy use on the environment.

# 2. The Program

The **New Homes Program** provides financial assistance to first owners of new homes that meet one (1) of these three (3) OPTIONS:

- **1:** an **EnerGuide rating of 80** at least, or
- **2:** an **R-2000 certification**, or
- **3:** all requirements of the **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications**.

## 2.1 **The EnerGuide Rating Service, R2000 Certification and the Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications.**

OPTION 1: The **EnerGuide Rating Service (EnerGuide 80 and Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications)** is administered throughout the province by various Service Providers (as listed on our web site), on behalf of Natural Resources Canada.

OPTION 2: **R2000** certification is administered by the *Canadian Home Builders Association – NB* (CHBA-NB), on behalf of Natural Resources Canada.

OPTION 3: The **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications** schedule is established by Efficiency New Brunswick.

Under these three OPTIONS:

- A homeowner or builder pays a program fee and submits their building plans to the Service Provider;
- The Service Provider reviews the building plans and models it in the Hot 2000 software to advise the homeowner or builder of the requirement to ensure that a rating of at least EnerGuide 80 will be attained.
- The new home is built in accordance with the plans as reviewed and/or amended by the Service Provider; or the new home is built in accordance with the plans and the **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications** schedule.
- The new home is evaluated upon completion by the Service Provider and receives a final confirmation of: 1: EnerGuide rating of 80, or 2: R2000 certification, or 3: that the **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications** have been met and confirms the use of all required insulation values and/or items in the built home to meet the prescriptive standard.

## **2.2 Cost of the EnerGuide Rating Service, R2000 Certification and the Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications.**

Fees for the EnerGuide Rating Service are set by the Service Providers, and are payable to the Service Provider at the time of submission of building plans or when required to model the already built home and confirm the Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications.

The R2000 program fee is set by the CHBA-NB, and are payable to the CHBA-NB at the time of submission of building plans.

## **3. Financial Incentives**

After receiving confirmation of:

- **1:** an **EnerGuide rating of 80** at least, or
- **2:** an **R-2000 certification**, or
- **3:** all requirements of the **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications**,

the homeowner or building contractor can apply for the incentives outlined in the following sections.

### **3.1 The Grant**

There are three grant incentives available based on the home's *primary heating system*\*.

#### **3.1.1 Basic**

A **\$1,000 grant** will be awarded to owners who build/buy a homes with any of the three Options; EnerGuide rating of 80 or higher, or R-2000 certification, or meeting the requirements of the **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications**.

#### **3.1.2 Central Heating – Electric**

A **\$2,000 grant** will be awarded to owners who build/buy a home with any of the three Options; EnerGuide rating of 80 or higher, or R-2000 certification, or meeting the requirements of the **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications**, and install a central heating system such as an electric furnace or boiler or an air source heat pump.

#### **3.1.3 Central Heating – Non-Electric**

A **\$3,000 grant** will be awarded to owners who build/buy a home with any of the three Options; EnerGuide rating of 80 or higher, or R-2000 certification, or meeting the requirements of the **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications**, and install a non-electric central heating system such as oil, natural gas, wood or geothermal heat pump.

\* A Primary Heating System is defined as:

- able to meet the space heating requirement year round; and
- when more than one system is present: the system providing heat in the coldest months of the year.

All other systems shall be deemed as supplemental and not eligible for incentive through the New Homes Program.

### **3.2 The ENERGY STAR® Bonus**

A bonus of **\$250** is available to homeowners who:

1. Install energy efficient lighting in all applicable fixtures
2. Install at least **2** of the following **ENERGY STAR** rated appliances:
  - Refrigerator
  - Freezer
  - Clothes Washer

The ENERGY STAR mark is administered and promoted in Canada by Natural Resources Canada and is registered in Canada by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

### **3.3 New Homes EnerGuide Rating Service Rebate**

Efficiency NB will **rebate** up to 50% of the cost of a New Home EnerGuide Rating to a maximum of \$250 when you submit your completed application form.

### **3.4 Application Process**

Eligible homeowners may apply to the **New Homes Program** anytime after completing one of the three OPTIONS:

- **1:** an **EnerGuide rating of 80** at least, or
- **2:** an **R-2000 certification**, or
- **3:** all requirements of the **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications**,

and receiving confirmation that this has been completed on their new home.

To apply for a grant, a homeowner/builder must provide the following:

- a completed application form (signed by both the EnerGuide for New Houses Advisor and homeowner); and
- a copy of the home's EnerGuide label of 80; or
- R2000 certificate; or
- a copy of the home's EnerGuide label and that the **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications** checklist has been met with all required insulation values and/or items in the built home.

To apply for the **ENERGY STAR Bonus**, a homeowner must provide originals or copies of receipts for their new **ENERGY STAR** appliances.

To apply for the **EnerGuide Rating Service Rebate**, a homeowner or builder must provide original or copy of receipt rendered by the Service Provider.

**Grant checks** are mailed directly to applicants within **2 weeks** of application approval.

## 4. Eligibility

All owners of newly constructed residential properties are eligible to apply for the **New Homes Program**.

Building contractors may apply if they sign a *Builder Agreement* with Efficiency NB (Appendix A). In order for incentives to be transferred to the Builder, homeowners must sign the *Financial Incentive Transfer Form* (Appendix B).

### 4.1 Eligible Homes

To be eligible for a grant under the **New Homes Program**, a home must:

- be located in New Brunswick;
- be a single family home, row house or side-by-side duplex (this includes site-built and manufactured homes)
- have attained an **EnerGuide** rating of at least **80**, OR
- have an **R-2000 certification**, OR
- all requirements of the **Prescriptive Mandatory Specifications are met**.

A new home will be eligible only once under this program.

The Home Energy Assessment and EnerGuide Rating Service process must be started within the 1<sup>st</sup> six months of occupancy.

## **4.2 Eligible Central Heating Systems\***

### **4.2.1 Central Heating – Electric**

In order to qualify for a **Central heating – Electric**, a new home's primary heating system must be one of the following:

- electric forced air furnace
- electric hot water boiler
- air source heat pump

### **4.2.2 Central Heating – Non-Electric**

In order to qualify for a **Central heating – Non-Electric** grant under this program, a new home's primary heating system must be one of the following:

#### **1. Natural gas:**

- **ENERGY STAR** rated forced air furnace
- **ENERGY STAR** rated hot water boiler

#### **2. Oil:**

- **ENERGY STAR** forced air furnace
- **ENERGY STAR** hot water boiler

#### **3. Geothermal Heat Pump:**

- **ENERGY STAR** rated or having a **COP** of at least **3.3** for closed loop systems, **3.5** for direct expansion systems and **3.6** for open loop systems; zoned for **Region V**.

#### **5. Wood Furnaces/Boilers:**

- EPA-certified

#### **6. Wood Pellet Furnaces/Boilers**

\* Any system not listed under Eligible Central Heating Systems qualifies for the \$1,000 Basic grant.

*Efficiency NB reserves the right to modify the above guidelines as it deems necessary from time to time.*