

ecoENERGY Home Retrofit Program Still Available in the NWT

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The Government of the Northwest Territories will continue its program to help homeowners improve the energy efficiency of their homes despite the decision by the Government of Canada to close the federal ecoEnergy Retrofit Program for Homes to new participants.

“Energy efficiency is one of the best ways for NWT residents to control the high cost of living and reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” said Environment and Natural Resources Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. “We have seen an increase in the number of homeowners asking for this service, and the Arctic Energy Alliance has worked hard to make sure that it is available in all of our communities.”

The GNWT will continue to support the Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA) to provide homeowners with advice and incentives to make homes more energy efficient.

The recent federal government announcement means that only homeowners who had booked a pre-assessment as of March 31, 2010 will be eligible to apply for federal incentives. The AEA, with funding provided by the GNWT, will continue to offer home assessments in the NWT based on the EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) rating system. Under the old system, homeowners needed to schedule a second assessment to be eligible for federal incentives that were then matched by the GNWT. The AEA will now offer a simplified program that will allow homeowners to access rebates for home energy efficiency improvements.

The Energy Efficiency Incentive Program will continue to provide rebates for eligible homeowners who purchase Energy Star equipment and appliances. Doors, windows and insulation will be added to this list of rebates available to NWT residents. EGH assessments will no longer be required for home energy improvement rebates.

Additionally, as of May 3, 2010, the EGH assessments offered by the AEA will be improved. The EGH Advisor will measure the energy performance rating of a home and then spend more time discussing the results and recommendations. The EGH Advisor will also help the homeowner install some simple improvements such as programmable thermostats, hot water tank blankets or low flow showerheads.

For more information, contact:

Judy McLinton Public Affairs and Communications
Environment and Natural Resources
Tel: 867-873-7379
Email: judy_mclinton@gov.nt.ca
www.enr.gov.nt.ca

Andrew Robinson
Arctic Energy Alliance
Tel: 867-920-3333
Email: andrew@aea.nt.ca
www.aea.nt.ca