

ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PACKAGE

The Australian Government will deliver a \$3.9 billion Energy Efficient Homes Package over the next three years.

This package is part of the \$42 billion Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan announced by the Prime Minister in February 2009.

The Energy Efficient Homes Package will install ceiling insulation in up to 2.7 million Australian homes and help over 300,000 households install a solar hot water system.

These practical steps will help millions of households reduce their energy use, cut their power bills by around \$200 a year, and increase the comfort and value of their homes.

This is a critical component of the Government's Economic Stimulus Plan. It will support thousands of jobs in manufacturing, distribution and installation in the midst of an economic downturn.

The Plan will modernise Australian homes, helping to set households up for a low carbon future. If all of the assistance in the package is taken up, almost all Australian homes will operate at a minimum two star energy rating.

In the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme White Paper the Government committed to help all households take practical action to reduce energy use and save on energy bills.

The Energy Efficient Homes package delivers on that promise.

The Package is made up of three elements:

- The Homeowner Insulation Program installs ceiling insulation (capped at \$1,600) in the homes of eligible owner-occupiers.
- The Low Emission Assistance Plan for Renters provides assistance of up to \$1,000 to install insulation in private rental properties.
- The Solar Hot Water Rebate provides rebates of \$1,600 to install a solar hot water system. It replaces the old \$1,000 rebate and removes the means test.

Implementation and timeframes

The Government has fast-tracked the Plan to stimulate jobs and get people saving energy and money straight away.

Insulation

The two insulation programs will start on 1 July 2009 and will run until December 2011. In the meantime, an early installation process has been established. Eligible householders can get their insulation installed now, keep their receipts and claim a reimbursement from the Government.

Guidelines for this early installation process were released on 26 February 2009. Guidelines for the full insulation programs will be released before the 1 July start date.

Solar hot water

The Solar Hot Water Rebate was increased to \$1,600 on 3 February 2009 and that offer runs until 30 June 2012. Guidelines for the solar hot water rebate were released on 26 February 2009.

Homeowner Insulation Program

This program offers ceiling insulation worth up to \$1,600 to eligible owner-occupiers.

The program targets homeowners who are currently uninsulated, or have ceiling insulation with an R-value of 0.5 or less.

The full program starts on 1 July 2009 and will run until 31 December 2011, but eligible homeowners don't have to wait. The Government has released early installation guidelines so people can access this assistance now.

Who is eligible for early installation?

Check the early installation guidelines for full eligibility details at www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency

What conditions apply for early installation?

Eligible homeowners who have ceiling insulation installed between 3 February and 30 June 2009 can send in their receipts to claim a reimbursement of up to \$1,600 within eight weeks. The home must be within Australia or its territories.

The insulation must be installed by a skilled tradesman (eg a builder, plasterer or specialist insulation installer) who is working for a business with an Australian Business Number. Details of the process to follow are in the early installation guidelines on the website.

The \$1,600 insulation assistance is an alternative to the \$1,600 solar hot water rebate. People cannot access both \$1,600 rebates for the same home.

Low Emission Assistance Plan for Renters

The Government is offering up to \$1,000 per home to help people install ceiling insulation in existing rental properties. The plan targets rental properties that are currently uninsulated, or have ceiling insulation with an R-value of 0.5 or less.

An application can come from either a landlord or a tenant, although a tenant must obtain permission from their landlord before installing insulation.

The program starts on 1 July 2009 and will run until 30 June 2011, but eligible landlords and tenants don't have to wait. The Government has released early installation guidelines that allow people to access this assistance now.

Who is eligible for early installation?

Check the early installation guidelines for full eligibility details at www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency

What conditions apply for early installation?

Eligible landlords or tenants who have ceiling insulation installed between 3 February and 30 June 2009 can send in their receipts to claim reimbursement of up to \$1,000 within eight weeks.

Landlords can access the \$1,000 offer for multiple rental properties, provided each property is someone's primary residence. The home must be within Australia or its territories.

The insulation must be installed by a skilled tradesman (e.g. a builder, plasterer or specialist insulation installer) who is working for a business with an Australian Business Number. Details of the process to follow are in the early installation guidelines on the website.

Solar Hot Water Rebate

The \$1,600 rebate is available for people who replace an existing electric hot water system with a solar or heat pump hot water system between 3 February 2009 and 30 June 2012.

This includes owner-occupiers, landlords or tenants. Tenants must obtain the permission of their landlord before installing the hot water system.

The Government has been processing rebates since 1 March 2009 and people should expect to receive their rebate within eight weeks of submitting a correct application form.

Who is eligible for the rebate?

Check guidelines for full eligibility details at www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency

What conditions apply?

The system installed must be eligible for at least 20 renewable energy certificates and be installed by a suitably qualified person (e.g. an electrician or plumber). The home must be within Australia or its territories.

The \$1,600 solar hot water rebate is available as an alternative to the \$1,600 offer through the Homeowner Insulation Program. People cannot access both \$1,600 rebates for the same home.

Monitoring

To ensure the Energy Efficient Homes Package is delivering the right results a rolling audit program is being established.

A portion of all households will be inspected to ensure the right insulation and solar hot water systems are in place and have been installed correctly.

Further information

For more information and copies of the available guidelines call 1800 808 571 or visit www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency

Or visit www.australia.gov.au/economicstimulus