



# NEW HOME ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM

*Program Guidelines*

# The Process

Please see eligibility criteria on the website and the following page. **NB Power reserves the right to create an expiry date for the program or to modify or cancel program participation should funding change or cease to be available.**

## 1. To register, visit our website or call us at 1 800 663 6272.

During the registration process you have the option to select a Service Organization.

## 2. Have your building plans modeled by a Certified Energy Advisor.

A Service Organization will contact you about modeling and evaluating your plans. The Service Organization will collect the program fee before modeling begins. The home's energy consumption will be estimated. Modeling will include the anticipated heating system(s), ventilation (an air leakage estimate will be included), water heating, and renewable energy sources (if present).

## 3. Consult with your Certified Energy Advisor on ways to make your home more energy efficient.

Based on your building plans, your Certified Energy Advisor will provide recommendations to improve the energy efficiency of your new home. These recommendations will include changes to your plans to meet at least one of the incentive levels offered through this program.

## 4. Build your home to meet one of the incentive levels.

You have 12 months to complete the construction of your home from the date of your registration in the program.

To ensure you receive your incentive, save any stickers, labels, or certificates relating to the efficiency of equipment in your home (ENERGY STAR® stickers on windows, for example). You should discuss with your Certified Energy Advisor what labels to keep.

**Products, equipment, and materials must be purchased new (not used).**

## 5. Complete an On-Site Energy Evaluation of your home.

Once your home is ready for an On-Site Energy Evaluation, contact your Service Organization to schedule the evaluation.

Once you schedule an evaluation, a Certified Energy Advisor will come to your home to conduct the On-Site Energy Evaluation. The evaluation will take 2-3 hours to complete depending on the size of your home. Your advisor will take detailed measurements of your home including insulation, heating, cooling, and ventilation systems, water heating, and alternative energy sources (if present) and complete a blower door test to measure the air tightness of your home. The Certified Energy Advisor will submit the required documentation to NB Power on your behalf. The results of the On-Site Energy Evaluation will be used to determine any incentive you may be eligible to receive.

Shortly after your On-Site Energy Evaluation, you will receive an EnerGuide label showing the modeled energy consumption of your home.

Please note that NB Power takes safety very seriously and fully supports employees and contractors who refuse unsafe work. Our contractors can reschedule home energy evaluations in cases of inclement weather, at their discretion. In these situations, as much advanced notice as possible will be given.

## 6. Receive your incentive.

We are now offering customers a direct deposit option for all incentives, making it quick and easy for you to receive your payment! For more information or to sign up, please visit [www.saveenergynb.ca/directdeposit](http://www.saveenergynb.ca/directdeposit). Payments are usually received within 90 days of your On-Site Energy Evaluation.

A copy of the building permit is required for NB Power to release incentive(s) to the participant.

**Note:** Incentives will only be issued once per property, to one participant. **The person registering into the program will receive the incentive.**

In general:

- If you are the builder, ensure that you have discussed with the homebuyer (preferably before registering) which of the parties will be applying for the incentive.
- If you are the homebuyer, ensure that you have discussed with your builder (preferably before registering) which of the parties will be applying for the incentive.

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# Eligibility

To be eligible to receive rebates, Participants must be registered either:

- before the building permit date of issuance (preferred option); or
- at a maximum, within 30 days of the building permit date of issuance.

Either builders or homebuyers (defined in this program as people having homes built) can participate in the program; builders must sign and agree to a *Builder Agreement* to participate in the New Home Energy Savings Program. A *Builder Agreement* only needs to be signed once.

To be eligible to receive incentives, participants must submit a copy of their building permit once it is received. A copy of the building permit will be necessary for NB Power to release any applicable incentive(s) to the participant.

## Buildings eligible for incentives:

- must be located in New Brunswick; and
- must be a home as defined below:
  - **Homes** can be detached (single family), semi-detached, or individual units of row housing. To qualify, semi-detached or row housing units must have party walls that extend from slab to attic and have separate heating and ventilation systems. Buildings with common areas or shared basements are not eligible. See Appendix E for examples of housing configurations, and
  - Be a residential property as defined under Part 9 of the National Building Code of Canada 2015. Such properties would be no more than three (3) stories high and having a footprint of not more than 600 m<sup>2</sup> (6,458 ft<sup>2</sup>), or
  - Be a manufactured dwelling on a permanent foundation (as defined under Part 9 of the National Building Code of Canada 2015).
    - Types of eligible foundations:
      - Basement foundation
      - Slab-on-grade with anchors
      - Concrete blocks on an engineered pad
      - Piers and beams
- must have an electric primary heating system:
  - A house with any kind of central heat pump, regardless of space heaters like wood/pellet/gas/oil/propane stoves or fireplaces.
  - A house with in floor heating provided by an electric boiler, regardless of space heaters like wood/pellet/gas/oil/propane stoves or fireplaces.
  - A house with an electric furnace, regardless of space heaters like wood/pellet/gas/oil/propane stoves or fireplaces.

### Ineligible buildings include:

- mixed-use buildings with less than 50% Residential Occupancy; or
- multi-unit residential buildings having more than (3) stories high, 3 or more units, and having a footprint of more than 600 m<sup>2</sup> (6,458 ft<sup>2</sup>). See Appendix E for examples of housing configurations; or
- Off-grid buildings; or
- homes that are attached to a chassis; or
- non-electrically heated homes as defined below:
  - A house with a central non-electric heating system that has ductless mini split(s).
  - A house with a central non-electric heating system with electric space heaters like in floor heating in a bathroom or in an addition.

**Please note:** Homes having up to two units, such as granny suites or homes with an adjacent unit, may be eligible to participate in the program. If there is an interior unlocked doorway connecting the two units, the property may be eligible. Eligibility will be determined by your Service Organization.

### Is the heating system you are considering for your new home eligible in the New Home Energy Savings Program?

I want my new home to be heated by:	Would my house be eligible?
A geothermal heat pump	Yes
A central air source heat pump	Yes
A central electric furnace	Yes
In floor heating from an electric boiler	Yes
Any of the systems above along with a non- electric space heater like a wood, pellet, natural gas, oil, or propane stove or fireplace	Yes
A central non-electric furnace or boiler along with any number of ductless mini split heat pumps	No
A central non-electric heating system with any number of electric space heaters like in floor heating in a bathroom or an addition	No



## Two levels of savings.

NB Power’s New Home Energy Savings Program is a prescriptive and performance-based program encouraging builders and homebuyers to reduce their energy consumption by going beyond the minimums prescribed in the National Building Code.

To show that homes exceed code minimums, all homes must have an Energy Evaluation by a Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) Certified Service Organization. These Service Organizations have been trained by NRCAN to use the home energy modeling software HOT2000 and to work with builders and homebuyers to understand how energy efficient upgrades can reduce the home’s overall energy usage.

The New Home Energy Savings Program will follow NRCAN’s EnerGuide Rating System. The EnerGuide label shows the estimated total annual energy consumption in Gigajoules (GJ) and compares this consumption to a Reference House. The Reference House is based on what the energy consumption would be if the house had been built to the current National Building Code. The estimated energy consumption is based on many factors including insulation amounts, heating and ventilation systems, typical hot water usage patterns and water heating systems, and typical occupant behavior patterns among other things. When comparing the performance of the modeled home against the reference house, the estimated energy consumption of lighting, appliances, and plug-in devices will be excluded (except when modeling to Level 2).

The performance of the house, in GJ/year as determined from the On-Site Energy Evaluation, will be used to determine what incentive level is appropriate. The performance targets exclude baseloads (lighting, appliances, and plug-in devices) and energy generated from renewables.

- For example, a newly built house is found to have an estimated annual energy consumption of 40 GJ/year with lighting, appliances and plug-in devices excluded, as determined from modeling using HOT2000 following the On-Site Energy Evaluation. The house is compared to the Reference House (essentially the same house as if it were built only to code) which in this example has an energy footprint of 90 GJ/year, with lighting, appliances, and plug-in devices excluded. The actual built house performs 56% better than the Reference House and therefore would qualify for a Level 1 incentive.

Some alternative home certifications are acceptable to show compliance with the New Home Energy Savings Program. Please see Appendix D for more information about alternative home certifications.

	Requirements	Incentive
<b>Level 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The house must meet or exceed all minimum building envelope requirements in Appendix A.</li> <li>• All heating systems installed must meet or exceed the criteria in Appendix B and C.</li> <li>• The house performs at least 55% better than the reference house but does not achieve a 0 GJ/year rating (baseloads included)</li> </ul>	\$6,000
<b>Level 2 Zero Energy Rated</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The house must meet or exceed all minimum building envelope requirements in Appendix A.</li> <li>• All heating systems installed must meet or exceed the criteria in Appendix B and C.</li> <li>• The house must be Zero Energy Rated (0 GJ/year, baseloads included)</li> </ul>	\$10,000

## Appendix A.

# Minimum Building Envelope Requirements

To qualify for Level 1 or Level 2, homes must be built to the standards shown below. All building components must be built to the specifications identified below (i.e. all above grade walls must be R-28). The R values presented in the table below are nominal; the nominal R-Value is a measurement of insulating products before taking other construction materials into consideration.

Building Envelope Requirements	
Attic/Ceiling	R-60 (R-52 for minihome)
Sloped Ceiling	R-32
Above-Grade Walls and Walls Adjacent to an Attached Garage	R-28
Floor Header	R-28
Below-Grade Walls	R-28
Exposed Floor Areas	R-32
Basement Floor and Slab-on-Grade	R-10
Heated Basement Floor and Slab-on-Grade	R-20
Windows, Doors & Skylights	ENERGY STAR (Version 5 - 2020)
Heat Recovery Ventilator	ENERGY STAR

## Appendix B.

# Product Eligibility Criteria

Note: If you are planning on installing the following products, they must follow the following requirements in order to be eligible for the incentive. In cases where an ineligible heating system has been installed in a home that otherwise meets program requirements, the participant may receive a reduced incentive.

### Geothermal heat pumps

- Must be ENERGY STAR certified. For a list of eligible products, please visit the ENERGY STAR directory: <https://www.energystar.gov/productfinder/product/certified-geothermal-heat-pumps/results?SetLanguage=English&NRCAN=on>
- The system must be installed by a Canadian Geexchange Coalition (CGC, <http://www.geo-exchange.ca/>) or International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA, <http://igshpa.org/>) accredited professional.

### Central ducted air source heat pumps

- Eligible systems must have values equal or greater than the following:
  - Heating Season Performance Factor (HSPF) of 8.3 (Region V)
  - Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 15
- For a list of eligible products, please visit the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) directory: <https://www.ahridirectory.org/Search/SearchHome?ReturnUrl=%2f>. The HSPF values shown on the directory are for Region IV and can be converted to Region V by dividing by 1.15. Filter by the values above to find eligible systems.

### Windows & Doors

- Windows and poured in place windows must be ENERGY STAR certified (version 5 – 2020)  
Please select the appropriate window type at: <http://oe.nrcan.gc.ca/pml-lmp/index.cfm?action=app.search-recherche&appliance=WINDOWS>.
- Doors must be ENERGY STAR certified (version 5 – 2020). Visit the ENERGY STAR directory at: <http://oe.nrcan.gc.ca/pml-lmp/index.cfm?action=app.search-recherche&appliance=DOORS>.
- Skylights must be ENERGY STAR certified (version 5 – 2020). Visit the ENERGY STAR directory at: <https://oe.nrcan.gc.ca/pml-lmp/index.cfm?language=langue=en&action=app%2Esearch%2Drecherche&appliance=SKYLIGHTS>.

Each certified model comes with a temporary label/sticker showing its certified performance ratings, a description of the product, and its certification information. Keep these stickers until your On-Site Energy Evaluation is complete.

### Heat Recovery Ventilator

- Must be ENERGY STAR certified. Please visit the ENERGY STAR directory: <http://oe.nrcan.gc.ca/pml-lmp/index.cfm?action=app.search-recherche&appliance=HERV>
- Heat recovery ventilators and energy recovery ventilators qualify.



## Rented Equipment

Rented equipment may be eligible if the rental agreement has prior approval from NB Power. The companies below have rental agreements approved by NB Power. Please call 1 800 663-6272 to obtain prior approval for any rental agreement not present below. Please note that all other program requirements still apply towards rented equipment; this includes efficiency standards and certifications, among other things. Please have the rental agreement present for the On-Site Energy Evaluation.

- Enbridge Gas New Brunswick Inc.
- Saint John Energy
- Perth Andover Electric Light Commission

## Appendix C.

# Product Eligibility Criteria – Ductless mini-split and multizone heat pumps

**Note:** Any and all ductless mini split and multizone heat pumps installed must be on the NB Power Eligible Heat Pump product list. In cases where an ineligible heat pump has been installed in a home that otherwise meets program requirements, the participant may receive a reduced incentive.

Must be on the NB Power Eligible Heat Pump product list: [www.saveenergy.nb.ca/qualifyingheatpumps](http://www.saveenergy.nb.ca/qualifyingheatpumps)

### **Ductless mini split heat pumps**

All units on this list meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must have an HSPF (region V)  $\geq 8.7$
- Must have a SEER  $\geq 18.0$
- ENERGY STAR (version 5.0) certified
- Be rated by the manufacturer for operation at or below  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$

### **Multizone heat pumps**

All units on this list meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must have an HSPF (region V)  $\geq 8.7$
- Must have a SEER  $\geq 18.0$
- Be rated by the manufacturer for operation at or below  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$

The Energy Advisor requires access to both the indoor and outdoor units to document the following:

- Manufacturer
- Indoor and outdoor model numbers

**Disclaimers:**

- NB Power does not endorse any particular participating contractor nor does it endorse any particular eligible product.
- NB Power makes no representation or warranty with respect to the quality of their work, the competitiveness of their pricing, or the quality of any product. NB Power does not offer warranty or provide service to any products sold or installed pursuant to the program.
- All manufacturers' warranties apply, and all customers should consider obtaining a labour warranty with any installation.
- Customers are encouraged to obtain three quotes and references prior to selecting any contractor.
- Customers will deal directly with the contractor when product/install issues occur.
- Homeowners should make necessary inquiries on their own behalf as to certification and qualifications of any participating contractor prior to performance of any work.
- All quality and performance concerns and questions related to the installation work should be directed to the participating contractor. All quality and performance concerns and questions related to the product should be directed to the participating contractor or manufacturer.

***\* NB Power strongly recommends having a well-insulated home prior to purchasing and installing a heat pump.***

## Appendix D.

# Alternative Home Certifications

**Note:** If you pursue one of the following certifications you may incur additional costs above the base cost of the New Home Energy Savings Program; NB Power is not responsible for these additional costs. This alternative certificate is not necessary to be eligible for the New Home Energy Savings Program, but it will be accepted. You must register and meet all requirements and guidelines of the New Home Energy Savings Program

### R2000 Homes

The R2000 program is a home certification program offered by Natural Resources Canada. Check with your participating Service Organization to determine if they are licensed to deliver the R2000 certificate.

- Homes reaching the R2000 certification are eligible for the Level 1 incentive.

### Passive House Certified Homes

The Passive House program is a home certification program offered by a certifier approved by the Passive House institute. Check with your participating Service Organization to determine if they are licensed to deliver the Passive House certificate. Alternatively, you may work with an external organization, but all requirements of the New Home Energy Savings Program must still be met. Certifications from the Passive House Institute (with participating organizations in Canada) as well as the Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) will be accepted. The Passive House standard is considered one of the most rigorous energy-based standards in the construction industry. Passive houses consume as much as 90% less cooling and heating energy than typical buildings do because of measures like high levels of insulation, high-quality windows, passive solar energy, shading, elimination of thermal bridges, and superior air tightness. A well thought out building envelope maintains comfortable temperatures, allowing for less complicated and smaller mechanical systems. Work with your Certified Energy Advisor if you intend on reaching Level 2 by building a Certified Passive House.

- Homes reaching the Passive House certification are eligible for the Level 2 incentive.

### Zero Energy Rated Homes

There are other labels in the marketplace which describe Zero Energy Rated homes. The Canadian Home Builders Association is the delivery Service Organization for the Net Zero and Net Zero Ready programs. Zero Energy Rated homes combine superior energy efficient construction, high efficiency heating systems, high efficiency water heating systems, and energy saving design elements like drain water heat recovery with alternative energy systems capable of producing all the energy used on an annual basis. Buildings are generally designed to perform at least 60% better than the Reference House before alternative energy systems such as solar photovoltaic (PV) are added. When the home is modeled, the energy savings from high efficiency appliances and lighting will not be considered (average values will be used); if these devices are installed in the final completed home it will count towards the rating. Work with your Certified Energy Advisor if you intend on reaching Level 2 by building a Zero Energy Rated Home.

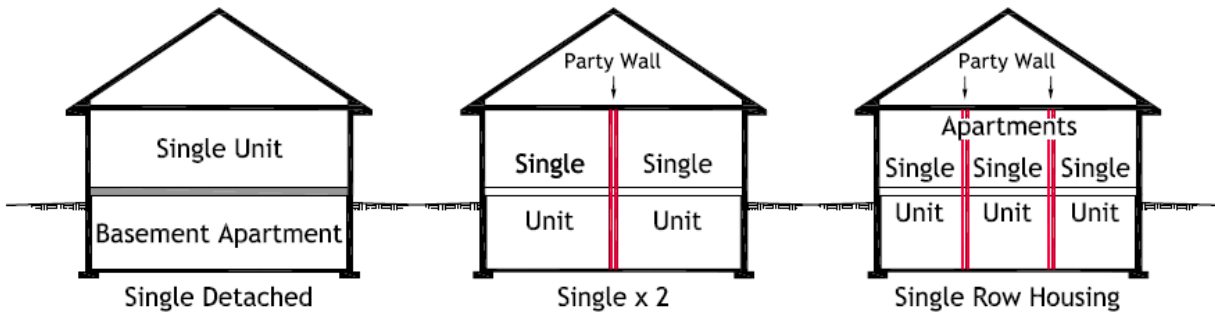
- A home that receives a Net Zero Ready certificate will qualify for the Level 1 incentive.
- A home that receives a Net Zero certificate will qualify for the Level 2 - Zero Energy Rated incentive

## Appendix E.

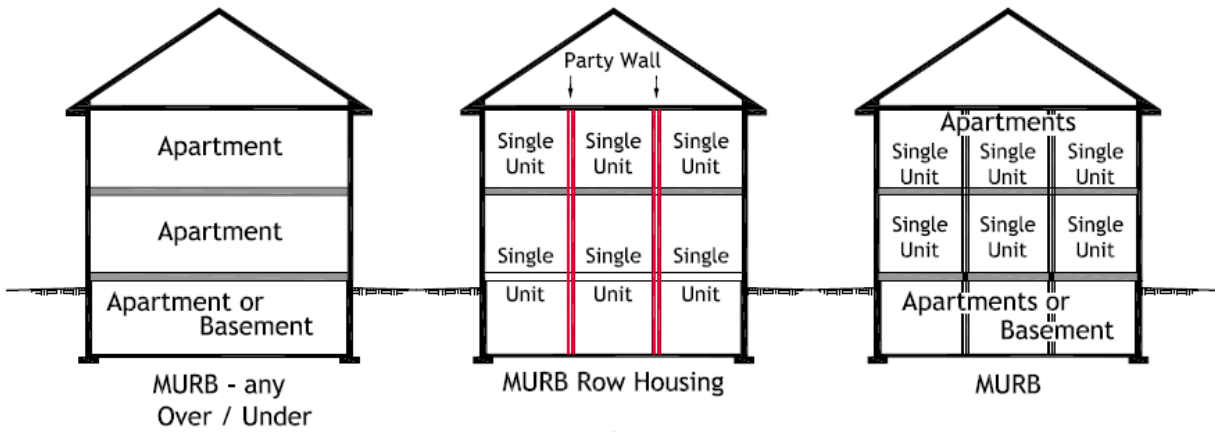
# Single Family and Multi-Unit Residential Buildings

The illustrations below define whether a building is considered a single unit building or a multi-unit residential building (MURB) for the purposes of the New Home Energy Savings Program.

Note: Red lines indicate party walls which separate a series of single unit dwellings.



### Single Unit



### MURB

