SCEP
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

Home Energy Rebates Program

Technical Assistance to Help States Maximize Benefits from Home Energy Upgrades

The U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Rebates Program will provide $8.8 billion in rebates for home energy efficiency and electrification projects, as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. States, territories, and Indian Tribes will administer these programs, which will help households save money on energy bills, improve in-home comfort, and reduce indoor and outdoor air pollution.

Ready to maximize program benefits for your state?

The National Renewable Energy Lab is offering technical assistance to State Energy Offices upon request at IRAHomeEnergyRebates@NREL.gov.

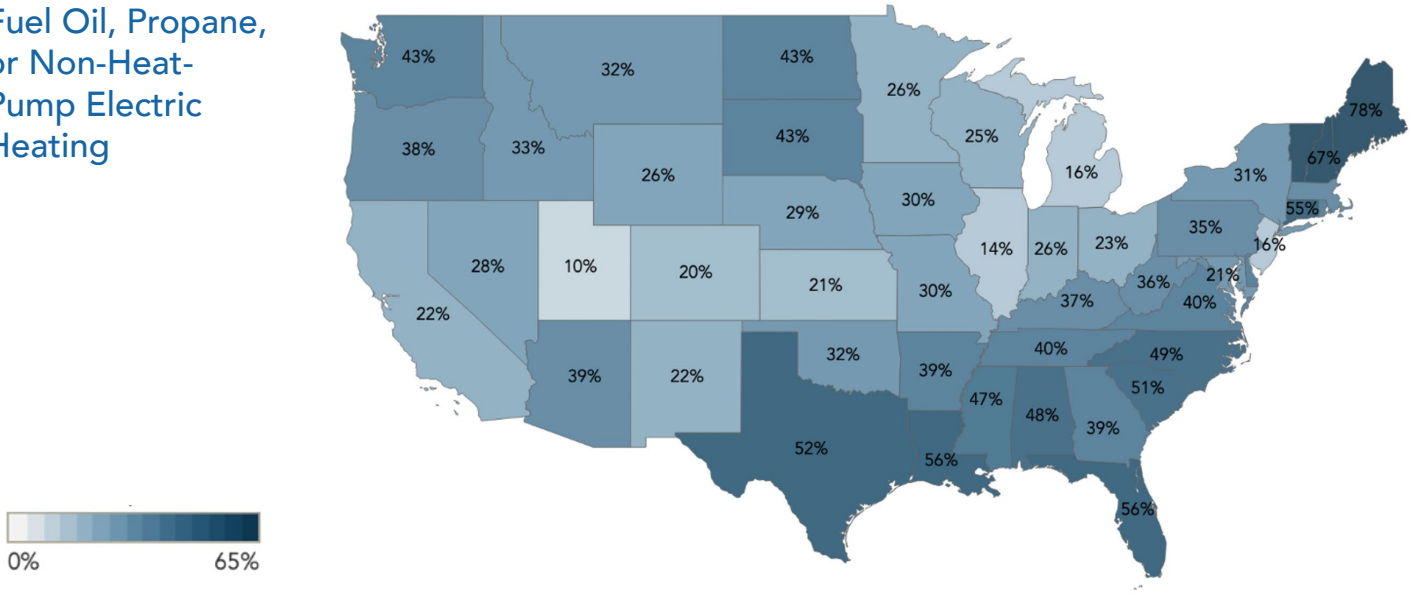
Maximizing Impact for Your Residents

Households with the following features will most likely see significant energy bill savings from home energy upgrades:

- Heated with fuel oil, propane, or electric resistance
- Using inefficient cooling systems
- Need insulation or air sealing upgrades
- Built prior to 1980.

99% of U.S. households have at least one of these features that make them great candidates for significant energy bill savings, and more than 3.8 million homes meet all four of these criteria.

Fuel Oil, Propane, or Non-Heat-Pump Electric Heating



A major predictor of substantial per household bill savings is the incumbent heating fuel in a given house. In all states, at least 10% of households heat with either fuel oil, propane or electric resistance. These households are the most likely to significantly lower utility bills after a home energy upgrade.

NOTE: The Home Energy Rebates Program is available to all U.S. states and territories. AK, AS, GU, HI, MP, PR, and VI are excluded from this map because they were not available within the ResStock analysis used to generate it.

Benefit Opportunity: Low Impact

Goal Alignment

Characteristics:

- Homes heated with efficient equipment
- Already have many efficient features, such as effective insulation, and efficient windows and doors
- Built after 2010.

Action: Alert customers to limited energy savings benefit and potential risk of bill increases.

Benefit Opportunity: Medium Impact

Goal Alignment

Multiple Benefits

Characteristics:

- Need health and safety upgrades
- Do not currently have air-conditioning or heating systems.

Action: Coordinate with other programs to ensure health, safety, comfort, and energy efficiency.

Benefit Opportunity: High Impact

Low Hanging Fruit

Goal Alignment

Multiple Benefits

Characteristics:

- Heated with fuel oil, propane or electric resistance
- Need heating and cooling upgrades
- Need insulation or air sealing upgrades
- Built prior to 1980.

Action: Conduct targeted outreach to raise awareness of rebates and benefits.

For all homes, it is important that programs strive to implement best practices such as disclosing risks and benefits to consumers before commencing a home energy upgrade project.

Best Practices to Maximize Household Benefits

Regardless of a home's characteristics, the following best practices have the potential to deliver benefits to households:

- Assess energy upgrades for estimated impacts on energy bills and disclose findings
- Prioritize home insulation and air sealing upgrades first
- Support home health upgrades alongside home energy upgrades
- Properly size equipment to meet heating and cooling load after efficiency upgrades
- Pair equipment upgrades with cost-effective insulation and air-sealing upgrades
- Teach residents about proper equipment use and maintenance
- Verify projects meet quality standards
- Prioritize equipment that meet Energy Star's Connected Criteria to achieve savings from demand response programs
- Explain the factors that are driving energy bill estimates
- Consider scenarios for how energy prices and fuel mixes may shift over equipment lifetime.

Learn More

- Find out more about the Home Energy Rebates Program: energy.gov/scep/home-energy-rebate-program
- Request technical assistance for State Energy Offices: IRAHomeEnergyRebates@NREL.gov
- Read the IRA Home Energy Rebate Scenario Tool technical report: https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy23osti/86700.pdf

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