

Energy Star Tax Credits for Existing Home Owners:

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed a stimulus bill (The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) that made some significant changes to the energy efficiency tax credits. The highlights are:

- Tax credits on 30% of cost, up to \$1,500.00 for metal and asphalt roofing !!!
- Tax credits on 30% of cost, up to \$1,500.00 for adding additional insulation to your home !!!
- Tax credits on 30% of cost, up to \$1,500.00 for replacing windows, skylights and exterior doors !!!
- Tax credits on 30% of cost, up to \$1,500.00 for new central air conditioning !!!
- Tax credits on 30% of cost, up to \$1,500.00 for replacing your existing furnace !!!
- Tax credits on 30% of cost, up to \$1,500.00 for replacing your existing water heater !!!
- Tax credits on 30% of cost, up to \$1,500.00 to install a biomass stove. Note: Biomass typically includes units that burn wood, corn, pellets, etc. Please visit energy star's website for additional information.
- Tax credits on solar energy systems 30% of cost (no limit) !!!
- Tax credits on geothermal heat pumps 30% of cost (no limit) !!!
- Tax credits on small wind energy systems 30% of cost (no limit) !!!
- Tax credits on fuel cells 30% of cost (no limit) !!!
- Tax credits on certain hybrid cars (Please refer to the Energy Star website for additional information) !!!

Important Note: If you are thinking about participating in any of the tax credits above, it is VERY IMPORTANT that you refer to the Energy Star website for qualifying details and information. The tax credits apply only to specific products that meet the highest energy standards. For example, in order for shingles to qualify for this tax credit, they MUST be Energy Star rated shingles!

Tax credits are now available for home improvements:

- must be "[placed in service](#)" from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010
- must be for taxpayers principal residence
- maximum amount is \$1,500 in 2009 and 2010 for most home improvements (geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, solar panels, fuel cells, and windmills are not subject to this cap, and are in effect through 2016)
- must have a [Manufacturer Certification Statement](#)³ to qualify
- for record keeping, save your receipts and the [Manufacturer Certification Statement](#)³
- improvements made in 2009 will be claimed on your 2009 taxes (filed by April 15, 2010) — use IRS Tax Form 5695 (2009 version) — it will be available late 2009 or early 2010
- If you are building a new home, you can qualify for the tax credit for geothermal heat pumps, photovoltaics, solar water heaters, small wind systems and fuel cells, **but not the tax credits for windows, doors, insulation, roofs, HVAC, or non-solar water heaters.**

For additional information please visit <http://www.energystar.gov> and click on the "Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency" in the lower left hand side of the page.