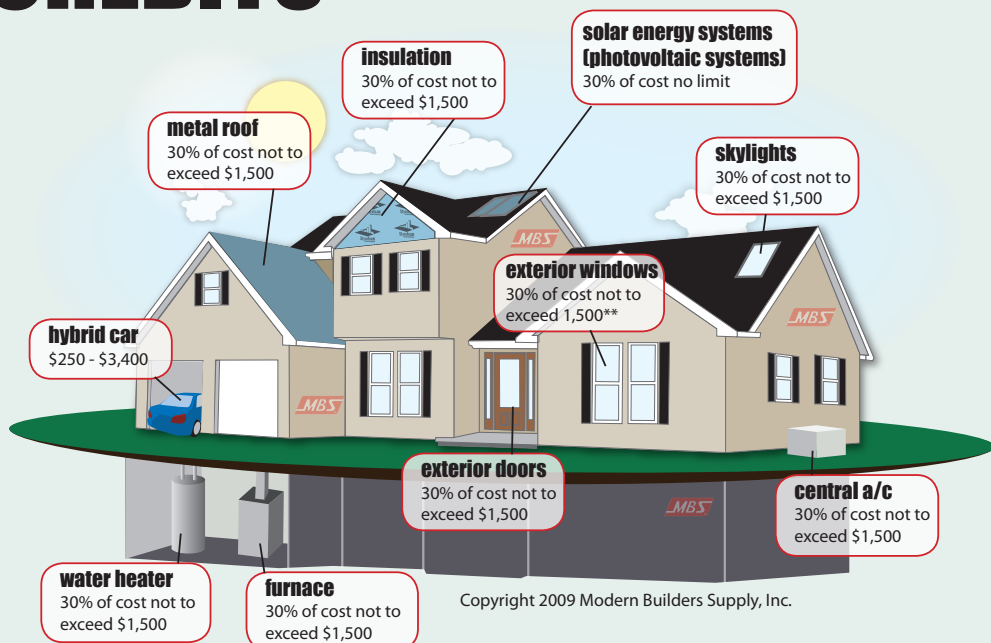


TAX CREDITS



For complete details and tax credit specifications visit: **energystar.gov**
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits



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:

- The tax credits that were previously effective for 2009, have been extended to 2010 as well.
- The tax credit has been raised from 10% to 30%.
- The tax credits that were for a specific dollar amount (ex \$300 for a CAC), have been converted to 30% of the cost.
- The maximum credit has been raised from \$500 to \$1500 for the two years (2009–2010). However, some improvements such as geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, and solar panels are not subject to the \$1,500 maximum.
- The \$200 cap on windows has been removed.

ATTENTION FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS!

\$8,000 Home Buyer Tax Credit - for first-time home buyers only. * The tax credit does not have to be repaid and is equal to 10 percent of the home's purchase price up to a maximum of \$8,000
 Available for homes purchased on or after January 1, 2009 and before December 1, 2009
 Single taxpayers with incomes up to \$75,000 and married couples with incomes up to \$150,000 qualify for the full tax credit
 Go to energystar.gov for complete details

* The IRS defines a first-time home buyer as someone who has not owned a principal residence during the three-year period prior to the purchase
 ** Note the bill that was signed is not the same as the last tax credit bill. The last bill gave tax credits to all Energy Star compliant windows, this new bill does not allow tax credits for all windows that meet Energy Star. You could have a window that meets Energy Star and not get a tax credit, in addition of the Shading Coefficient and U-Value must be .30 or less. Go to energystar.gov for complete details. This may be subject to change in the near future.

About the Weatherization Assistance Program

It's a fact: weatherization works! In the 3 decades since its founding in 1976, U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program has provided weatherization services to more than 6.2 million low-income families. It is a record of service to some of society's neediest citizens that also benefits our nation by reducing our energy dependency, improving the environment, and stimulating economic development in low-income communities.

Through this program, weatherization service providers install energy efficiency measures in the homes of qualifying homeowners free of charge. These are not expensive upgrades—**the average expenditure limit is \$6,500 per home**—but they are effective, and energy savings pay for the upgrades within a few years. DOE documents the savings and compares them against costs, so that over the years it can determine the efficacy of these measures.

Weatherization has helped spawn an energy efficiency industry for residential housing. This industry today employs thousands of people who work in low-income weatherization alone, and many times that number work in companies that help homeowners increase their energy efficiency through low-cost measures. Many of the techniques that are today standard procedure in this industry were first developed and tested by the Weatherization Program. And through weatherization, DOE continues to develop and test in the field new advances in home energy science.

DOE provides funding and technical guidance to the states, but the states run their own programs and set rules for issues such as eligibility. They also select service providers, which are usually non-profit agencies that serve families in their communities, and review their performance for quality. Together, this group of more than 900 agencies makes up a nationwide weatherization network.

About 38 million households are currently eligible for Weatherization services. Any household at or below 200% of poverty, per the modified statute, is considered low-income. About 15 million of all eligible households are good candidates for Weatherization. Priority service is given to the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children.

Professionally trained crews use computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic equipment, such as the blower door, to determine the most cost-effective measures. Typical measures may include: installing insulation, sealing ducts, tuning and repairing heating and cooling systems and if indicated, replacement of the same; mitigating air infiltration; and reducing electric base load consumption.

For a complete list of program benefits, see the fact sheet published by DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) titled Weatherization Assistance Program—The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
 source: *U.S. Department of Energy*

FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR STATE'S PROGRAM

- 1.) Go to www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization
- 2.) Click "state activities" from the left side navigation bar
- 3.) Choose your state from the map