

## At-A-Glance Frequently Asked Questions

Energy Upgrade California™ is an exciting new statewide program that can help you save money on home energy efficiency upgrade projects. These projects can potentially lower your utility bills, increase your home's energy and water efficiency, and create a more comfortable home.

Following are responses to common questions about the Energy Upgrade program. If you have more questions, please visit the one-stop-shop website at [www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org) to learn more. As additional information becomes available, it will be posted on the website. Sign up for Energy Upgrade California e-updates to receive newsletters and updates about new information as soon as it becomes available!

These At-A-Glance Frequently Asked Questions describe the statewide Energy Upgrade California program. Program details may differ depending on location and utility provider. Check the local county pages on [www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org) for your area's information.

### Energy Upgrade California Program Overview

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ENERGY UPGRADE CALIFORNIA?

Key goals include:

- Improve the energy efficiency of over 100,000 properties across the state
- Work with utility companies to provide property owners with rebates and incentives that make it easier to complete home efficiency upgrades
- Reduce greenhouse gases, dependence on fossil fuels and the adverse impacts of climate change
- Boost the economy by creating thousands of well-paying local construction jobs in communities throughout California
- Encourage homeowners to take a "whole house" approach to energy efficiency by addressing the entire house as a system
- Offer commercial and multi-family energy efficiency upgrade opportunities in future phases

HOW IS THE PROGRAM FUNDED?

The program is funded by:

- American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA, also known as federal stimulus funds)/State Energy Program
- Investor-owned utility Whole House Retrofit programs
- Energy Commission-administered Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants to Los Angeles County, San Diego County and City of Fresno
- United States Department of Energy's Better Buildings Program

- Employment Development Department Workforce Investment Act
- Local governments

## Rebates and Incentives

WHAT KIND OF REBATES AND INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE?

Rebates and incentives vary by location and provider, but could include utility company incentives, American Reinvestment and Recovery Act rebates, water company rebates, city rebates and federal tax credits. Depending on your energy savings, you could receive more than \$4,000—and even more for improvements like new heating and cooling systems or green building enhancements. You can learn more about your local rebates and incentives on the program’s central resource website at [www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org).

ARE ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES ELIGIBLE FOR TAX CREDITS?

The 2011 tax credit is 10% of improvement cost, up to \$500 maximum. Some restrictions apply. More information is available in the local rebate and incentive section of [www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org).

## “Whole House Approach”

WHAT IS THE “WHOLE HOUSE” APPROACH?

Energy Upgrade encourages you to think of your house as a complete system working together—a “whole house”—rather than individual elements. Increasing your home’s efficiency is more than switching out light bulbs or adding low-flow showerheads—it’s approaching your home as a complete system, with heating, air-conditioning, water and other systems working together more efficiently to help lower your energy use.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF THE “WHOLE HOUSE” APPROACH?

- Increase energy and water efficiency
- Potentially lower utility bills
- Create a more comfortable home
- Improve indoor air quality
- Potentially increase home value
- Reduce impact on the environment
- Save important energy and water resources for the future

## Program Description

WHAT TYPES OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES QUALIFY FOR REBATES?

The program consists of two Upgrade Packages: **Basic** and **Advanced**. These packages provide straightforward options that qualify for rebates. Rebates and incentives vary by location, so be sure to check the program website to find out how much you can save in your area at [www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org).

- The program's **Basic Upgrade Package** consists of seven required measures (estimated to achieve approximately 10% energy savings) with rebates and incentives of up to \$1,000.
- The program's **Advanced Upgrade Package**, in addition to the Basic Package measures, requires a combination of customized energy efficiency elements that achieve at least 15% to 40% in energy savings. Depending on your energy savings, you could receive from \$1,500 to more than \$4,000.
- With **Enhanced Options**, it's possible to earn even more for improvements like new heating and cooling systems or green building enhancements. Learn more at [www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org).

## Getting Started

ACTION STEPS

1. Go to the program website and find your local program, learn about benefits, details and rebate information: [www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org).
2. Go to "My Action Plan," a simple step-by-step process to help identify your best upgrade option and locate a Participating Contractor.
3. Select a Participating Contractor from Energy Upgrade California's online contractor database. You must work with a Participating Contractor to receive the Energy Upgrade rebates and incentives.
4. Work with your Participating Contractor to further discuss the upgrade packages and confirm your Upgrade Package choice
5. Receive your rebates and incentives!