

## Nunatsiavut Energy Efficiency Retrofit (NEER)

### Program Guidelines

#### **What is the NEER Program?**

The Nunatsiavut Government (NG) is excited to introduce the Nunatsiavut Energy Efficiency Retrofit (NEER) Program for households and businesses located in Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik, and Rigolet.

This program helps homeowners increase the comfort of their homes by providing free energy audits and funding for eligible energy efficiency upgrades. The program is available solely for Beneficiaries defined under section 1.1 of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* or the spouse or common-law partner of a Beneficiary. Additionally, registered Inuit-owned businesses are eligible to participate in the program.

The program allows eligible participants to receive a free energy audit on their dwelling or business. The energy audit will lead to the creation of a report that contains a list of recommended upgrades for the audited building. These upgrades will be reviewed by NG to determine which upgrades are eligible for a financial contribution, and if eligible, these upgrades will be organized and carried out by contractors selected by NG. After the upgrades are completed on the building and the grant funding is allocated, a post-retrofit audit will be performed to confirm the upgrade's effectiveness and measure estimated energy reductions.

#### **What is an Energy Audit?**

Energy audits are performed by Certified Energy Advisors to determine inefficiencies or areas where a building's systems may be underperforming. Residential energy audits often include measuring insulation levels, determining how "air-tight" the home is using a blower door test, and cataloguing all energy systems within the home such as the heating system, existing lighting, water heating and other appliances. Residential audits performed through this program will be technical, "ENERGuide evaluations" which follows a framework set out by Natural Resources Canada. These audits are thorough and result in the creation of a detailed report that contains the top recommended upgrade opportunities, while outlining areas of the home that are underperforming.

Commercial building audits are similar to residential audits; however, they follow a different framework set out by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). These audits will also lead to the development of a report which contains the top recommended upgrades for the building.

## How are Eligible Upgrades Selected?

Upgrades will be selected based on the results of the energy audit report, the financial contribution available to the candidate, and the eligible upgrade list covered by the program. Upgrades identified in the energy audit report corresponding with the heating types on this list are eligible to proceed using the grant funding available.

Primary Heating Source Upgrades	
Heat Source	Eligible Upgrades
Oil Heat	Woodstove Addition/Upgrade <sup>1</sup>
	Envelope Upgrades <sup>2</sup>
	Smart/Programmable Thermostat
Electric Heat	Woodstove Addition/Upgrade
	Heat Pump
	House Envelope Upgrades
	Smart/Programmable Thermostat
Wood Heat	Woodstove Upgrade
	House Envelope Upgrades

<sup>1</sup>If you have a high efficiency woodstove that was installed inadequately, we will inspect, and repair as needed to meet WETT standards for certification.

<sup>2</sup>Envelope upgrades include items such as insulation, windows and doors.

## What is expected from homeowners during the process?

Homeowners who are Beneficiaries of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claim Agreement* that are interested in participating in the program, are expected to do the following tasks to be eligible for grant funding for energy upgrades:

- Complete and submit the NEER Application to your local Community Liaison Officer or program representative.
- Provide your Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) proof of income (see below) to the Community Liaison Officer or program representative.
- Work with the NEER program team to organize a home energy audit
- Go through the upgrade recommendations with a NEER program representative to determine upgrades that align with both the program goals and eligible funding.
- Work with the NEER program team to organize your home energy upgrade.
- Schedule a follow-up audit with the NEER team once upgrades have been completed.

## What is expected from NG throughout the process?

The Nunatsiavut Government is facilitating this program and will provide guidance to homeowners throughout the process. Here are some of the tasks that you can expect to be completed by the NEER team over the course of the program:

- Distribute applications to interested candidates.
- Review and determine eligibility for all applications accepted prior to the application deadline (July 10, 2024).
- Determine eligible financial contribution amounts per applicant.
- Organize energy auditors to homes in Nain, Postville, Makkovik, Hopedale, and Rigolet.
- Present homeowners with eligible upgrade opportunities and their energy audit report
- Organize contractor travel to the communities and schedule home energy upgrades with eligible homeowners
- Determine financial contribution amount and apply the funding to the completed projects
- Organize and complete post-retrofit audits with energy auditors once all upgrades are completed

## How are grant amounts determined?

Household income is a requirement for participation in this program as it informs the amount of financial contribution available through the NEER program. To ensure the program meets the needs of all members of the community, contribution amounts vary by income range, which can be seen in the table below.

Income range	NG Contribution *
Less than \$70,000	Up to \$20,000
\$70,000 - \$120,000	Up to \$15,000
\$120,000 – \$200,000	Up to \$10,000
\$200,000+	Up to \$5,000
Business Program	Up to \$50,000

To apply for this program, the applicant must provide a **Notice of Assessment (NOA)** also known as a “proof of income statement”. This is to ensure that program information regarding financial contribution is accurate.

How to get a proof of income statement:

You can get a proof of income statement either online or by mail.

## Online:

- By logging in to the Canada Revenue Agency's *My Account*, you can click on "Proof of income" statement (option 'C' print). This allows you to view and print a proof of income statement right away.

## Mail:

- Applicants can either log into the MyCRA app and request a copy of their proof of income statement; or
- Applicants can call CRA's Automated Tax Phone Information Service and request a copy of their proof of income statement be mailed to their residence
- Note: It could take up to 10 business days to receive a proof of income statement in the mail

## **How does the program work for businesses?**

The business portion of the program will operate in a similar method to the residential component. Inuit-owned businesses will be required to fill out a NEER program application and submit their completed form to the Nunatsiavut Government for review. If deemed eligible, these businesses will receive an ASHRAE level 1 energy audit that will inform various energy upgrades. NG's financial contribution for businesses will allow for up to \$50,000 of funding to be allocated to pre-determined eligible upgrades identified by the energy audit. Note: If an applicant owns multiple businesses or buildings, only one building per owner or organization is eligible for upgrades each year under the program. This is to ensure fair access and equitable distribution of program resources.