

Nunatsiavut Energy Efficiency Retrofit (NEER) Program Policy

Objective

The Nunatsiavut Government (NG) is committed to supporting communities with Programs and Services for households and businesses that create an outcome where energy efficient retrofits and knowledge serve to reduce GHG emissions by reducing energy consumption.

Context

NG's goal is to provide energy efficiency initiatives within Nunatsiavut that deliver the largest GHG emission reduction. According to calculations by NG's advisor CLEAResult, the greatest GHG emissions in the five communities of Nunatsiavut are directly linked to the burning of diesel by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (NLH) to produce electricity. As electrically heated structures were chosen in previous NG energy projects to target the greatest emission reduction, the NEER program strives to be an inclusive program that allows all homes and businesses to benefit. NG will continue building on the foundational pieces completed in the past, which allowed for the exploration and assessment of previous energy efficiency work. Previous programs include the High Efficiency Woodstove Replacement Program, Residential Heat Pump program and the Business Energy Efficient Retrofit Program.

Business facilities are the largest contributor to energy consumption in the region. Through this program, we will perform commercial energy assessments following ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers) guidelines on Inuit owned businesses to identify the most energy efficient upgrades for each business. NG and CLEAResult will work with the business owner to determine which upgrades will be the most effective within the scope of this program to maximize energy savings and then arrange to have the work completed.

The other key focus of the NEER program is to improve energy efficiency in homes by completing EnerGuide certified energy assessments, with additional considerations for our region, and implementing recommended upgrades that would have the most significant impact in reducing energy consumption.

Communities within Nunatsiavut have many challenges when it comes to energy efficient retrofits, especially retrofits that are viable on a diesel generation power system. There are significant barriers to completing retrofit work, everything from trained personnel for completion of energy audits; technical installation pieces; short construction season; shipping restrictions/delay and storage being some of the more prominent.

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We are committed to maximizing our efforts for reduction of GHG emissions, working with communities to lower the electrical consumption and reduce the amount of diesel burned by the NLH power plant, all while, creating viable and stable energy consumption options for Nunatsiavut.

Program Description

NG, with the support of CLEAResult, will develop an assessment and program approach to work with beneficiaries who are homeowners and Inuit Owned Businesses within Nunatsiavut. Certified energy assessments will be conducted on dwellings and business facilities to identify the most energy efficient upgrades to perform on their selected property. This program will have an application process, which will first be assessed for completeness. The next phase would be the performance of the energy assessment to assess the property and receive recommendations. NG, CLEAResult and the energy auditor will review the assessments to decide on the most effective upgrades, confirm eligible upgrades with the applicant then arrange to have upgrades completed.

Term of Program

Funding for this program is contingent on external funding provided by the Provincial and Federal Governments and shall operate as long as adequate funding is provided.

1. Applications will be accepted during Spring/Summer of each year known as the “Application Period”. There will be an announcement during the start of the application period each year.
2. Installation work will be carried out during Summer/Fall of the following year.

Eligibility

1. To be eligible for the **Residential portion** of the program, applicants must meet all the following criteria:
 - a. Must be either:
 - i. a Beneficiary as defined in part 1.1 of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*; or
 - ii. married to or in a common-law relationship with a Beneficiary as defined in part 1.1 of the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement*;
 - b. Must reside in Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik, or Rigolet;
 - c. Must be applying to the program for a property they have ownership of, and it is their primary residence.
 - d. A homeowner is eligible to reapply if they were not selected the previous year.
 - i. Assessments are valid for two years. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to disclose to the NG any significant changes to their home since their last assessment. Depending on the changes made, the homeowner may be eligible for a reassessment.
2. To be eligible for the **Business portion** of the program, applicants must meet all of the

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following criteria:

- Must be a registered Inuit-owned business operating within Nunatsiavut;
- The facility must be a stand-alone building (i.e. not an in-home business);
- Facility is operational year-round (for more than 6 months in a year).

The primary heating source of the facility will determine which upgrades you are eligible to receive, as per to the table below:

Primary Heating Source Upgrades	
Heat Source	Eligible Upgrades
Oil Heat	Woodstove Addition/Upgrade ¹
	House Envelope Upgrades ²
Electric Heat	Woodstove Addition/Upgrade
	Heat Pump
	House Envelope Upgrades
Wood Heat	Woodstove Upgrade
	House Envelope Upgrades

¹If you already have a high efficiency woodstove, but it was installed inadequately, we will inspect, and repair as needed to meet WETT standards for certification.

²Envelope upgrades include items such as air sealing, insulation, windows and doors.

If you received energy efficiency upgrades from one of NG's energy or home repair programs in the last 5 years, those specific upgrades would not qualify.

- The NG will provide a financial contribution towards the upgrades in which the value of contributions provided being dependent on total household income. The values shown are considered a **maximum** financial contribution by NG and will be dependent on the results of the energy audit. Please note that all businesses are eligible for a fixed maximum financial contribution from NG. This is outlined in the table below:

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Total Household Income Range (residential)	NG Maximum Contribution (\$)
<70,000	20,000
70,000 - 120,000	15,000
120,000 – 200,000	10,000
200, 000 +	5,000
All Business	50,000

Application

1. Application forms will be available through the NG website and can also be picked up from the local Community Liaison Officers (CLOs). CLO's will be able to assist individuals in each Inuit community who wish to apply for the program.
2. Applications will also be available in fillable PDF format for submission to NG by email.
3. The application will include a signed consent form to allow access for the home inspector/installer to enter their household as well as consent for NG and CLEAResult to access your NL Hydro account data for assessment purposes.

Application Review

1. The review of applications will be done by a committee ("the Review Committee") composed of representatives from the Nunatsiavut Secretariat and Nunatsiavut Housing Commission, and/or Nunatsiavut Affairs.
2. The Review Committee will meet periodically during the application period and within 10 business days of the end of the application period, to review applications to determine which applications meet the eligibility criteria.
3. Support staff will contact those applicants with incomplete applications to identify missing or additional information required.
4. Eligible applicants will be notified by the Review Committee that their dwelling or facility may qualify for the energy assessment, subject to confirmation of eligibility criteria outlined above. The applicant or a delegate must be available to provide access to Energy³.
5. The Review Committee will provide a list of applicants eligible to receive an energy assessment from the selected Energy Auditor. This Energy Auditor will conduct an assessment of the facility and produce a list of recommended energy efficiency upgrades.

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6. The Review Committee and CLEAResult will review the results of the energy assessment and determine which applicants meet the criteria to receive a financial contribution from NG for upgrades.
7. Once selected, the Review Committee will contact the applicant to review and select the most effective upgrades.
8. The Review Committee and CLEAResult will develop a scope of work based on selected upgrades and release a Request for Proposals for a contractor to complete those upgrades on the approved facilities.
9. The Review Committee will discuss with successful applicants the scope of work to be completed on their facility and will designate a contact person from NG for the program.
10. NG Legal will prepare a document outlining the agreed-upon scope of the work to be signed by the successful applicant, allowing NG and its contractors to complete upgrades.
11. The Review Committee will coordinate with the applicant and contractor to perform the required scope of work.
12. Once decisions have been made, unsuccessful applicants will be informed. These unsuccessful applicants will still be provided with the results of their energy assessment to use at their disposal.
13. An unsuccessful applicant may, by submitting a letter of appeal, appeal to the decision of the Review Committee to an Appeal Committee composed of the Deputy Minister of Nunatsiavut Secretariat and Legal Counsel. A letter of appeal will be delivered to the Community Liaison Officer within 10 business days of the date of the decision of the Review Committee. This letter must be immediately delivered to the Deputy Minister of Nunatsiavut Secretariat via mail to the Nain Administration building or e-mail. The Appeal Committee must decide on the appeal within 30 business days of the date of the letter of appeal, and such a decision must be communicated in writing to the applicant and the Review Committee. The decision of the Appeal Committee is final.
14. For unsuccessful applicants where repairs fall beyond energy efficiency measures, referrals will be made to the NG Home Repair Program for further assessment and consideration.

Scope of Program

1. Under this program, the property owner is eligible for:
 - a. Energy Audit;
 - i. Residential – EnerGuide Energy Assessment, with additional considerations for our region
 - ii. Business – ASHRAE Energy Assessment (level to be determined) **or** EnerGuide Assessment depending on building type, as determined by the auditor.
 - b. Review and selection of recommended upgrades to perform on facility;
 - c. Financial contribution to cover costs associated with performing selected upgrades as per

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- income table;
- d. Post energy Assessment to confirm the effectiveness of upgrades.
- 2. If it is unsafe to complete the energy assessment or perform upgrades, the application will be denied. Unsafe conditions include:
 - a. Dangerous conditions for contractors to perform work
 - b. Upgrades that would result in the building being compromised
 - c. Facility is in too poor condition to do the work
- 3. After retrofit is complete, NG will delegate a representative to follow up with the applicant to ensure all work is complete according to planned scope.
- 4. NG will also request access to NL Hydro data on the facility to track whether retrofits have had a positive impact on energy consumption. This will assist in further improving on the program and educate the applicant as needed.

Priorities of retrofit work

1. Residential priorities

Given that this program is servicing people with a broad spectrum of income levels, there should be an effort to ensure those who are most in need are prioritized in terms of the order in which their applications are approved for upgrades. The priority for installation of these upgrades will be in households with:

- a) lower income level;
- b) greater possible energy savings as determined by assessment (payback years, kW/h, etc.)

2. Business priorities

The priority for selection of businesses to receive upgrades will be businesses with the most potential for greatest energy savings as determined by the audit. Please note that NG reserves the right to take other factors into consideration when prioritizing upgrades such as a business's ability to have the upgrades done in a timely fashion, type of business facility, and overall cost of completing the upgrades.

Communications

The program will be advertised by the following means:

- a. social media (i.e. Facebook, X);
- b. local radio stations;
- c. posted notices in Inuit communities; and
- d. other means considered appropriate.