

YOU'VE GOT THE POWER TO IMPROVE THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF YOUR HOME

Government funding is available to improve the energy efficiency of New Zealand homes by installing insulation, 'clean' heating systems, general energy efficiency measures and solar water heating.

There is funding available for

- homeowners who are eligible for a Community Services Card
- landlords with low-income tenants
- middle-income homeowners (and landlords who meet the income criteria)
- homeowners who install solar water heating systems that meet certain criteria.

This action sheet gives you basic information about what's available.

WHAT IS 'CLEAN' HEAT?

'Clean' heat refers to heating systems that produce very little or no air pollution, and are highly efficient to run. These include ENERGY STAR® heat pumps, authorised wood and wood pellet burners, and 4-Star AGA rated flued gas heaters. (Flued gas heaters run on natural gas or LPG and vent emissions to air through a pipe or chimney, not into the house).

FUNDING FOR HOMEOWNERS WHO HAVE A COMMUNITY SERVICES CARD

EECA has teamed up with community-focused groups (providers) to offer funding in various parts of the country. This funding is limited, and sometimes linked to a specific need, such as health issues, so you'll need to find out what's available in your area.

If you're eligible, your home will be assessed, and if you're accepted for funding, then installation will be arranged and completed for you.

To be eligible

- the homeowner must have, or be eligible for a Community Services Card
- the property involved must have been built before 1978
- the property should have insufficient ceiling and/or underfloor insulation
- in some areas, depending on who funds the project, you may also need to be referred through a health agency, such as your GP, to qualify for the grant. Call your local provider, to see how it works in your area.

You're not eligible for a subsidy if you are a Housing New Zealand tenant.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED INSUFFICIENT INSULATION?

For ceiling insulation: anything thinner than 120 mm

For underfloor insulation: any sagging, air gaps, tears or any section of the underfloor area that isn't covered

What's on offer?

- Ceiling and/or underfloor insulation
- Draught-proofing of doors
- Hot water cylinder wrap
- Pipe lagging.

Some groups also offer:

- Moisture barriers under floors
- Energy efficient compact fluorescent lights
- Energy efficient, low-flow shower heads
- Replacing inefficient open fires and solid fuel burners with clean, efficient heating appliances.

What should you do?

1. Check if you are eligible
2. Check the list of current projects and providers at www.energywise.govt.nz (under Funding Available) or call **0800 749 782** to see if there is a project running in your area
3. Contact the provider in your area.

FUNDING FOR LANDLORDS WITH LOW-INCOME TENANTS

Currently landlords are being offered a subsidy of up to 55% on insulation and other energy efficiency measures for existing rental properties occupied by low-income tenants.

To be eligible

- the tenant named on the tenancy agreement must be eligible for a Community Services Card
- the property must have been built before 1978
- the property should have insufficient ceiling and/or underfloor insulation
- rent must not be increased within six months of receiving the subsidy.

What's on offer?

Your property will be assessed and the following may be installed:

- Ceiling and underfloor insulation
- Hot water cylinder wraps
- Pipe lagging
- Underfloor moisture barrier
- Energy efficient compact fluorescent lights
- Low-flow shower heads
- Draught-proofing.

What should you do?

Check if you are eligible, and then call the relevant organisation to arrange for the work to be done.

There are two organisations that do this work on rental properties:

- Eco Insulation – free phone 0800 400 326
- Energy Efficiency Community Network (EECN) – free phone 0800 151 565

They work in the following areas:

- **Northland** – Eco Insulation or EECN
- **Auckland** (all areas) – Eco Insulation or EECN
- **Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Western Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Taupo, South Waikato** – Eco Insulation or EECN
- **Taranaki, Manawatu, Horowhenua** – EECN
- **Wellington, Kapiti** – Eco Insulation or EECN
- **Hawke's Bay** – EECN
- **Blenheim** – EECN
- **Christchurch** – Eco Insulation or EECN
- **Otago** – Eco Insulation
- **West Coast** – Eco Insulation
- **Southland** – EECN

FUNDING FOR MIDDLE-INCOME HOMEOWNERS

EECA has teamed up with organisations around the country to offer flexible funding packages that make energy efficiency measures and 'clean' heat more affordable.

Funding is provided as an interest subsidy on loans or a one-off payment towards the costs. Each of the funding partners has their own way of delivering this funding assistance and will be advertising what's on offer and how to apply within their communities.

To be eligible

- homeowners need to be earning, before tax, less than \$100,000 a year (one or two earners) or less than \$140,000 a year (three or more earners)
- the property must have been built before 1978
- funding will also be available to landlords for their residential rental properties – the above income level applies to the landlord not the tenant.

What's on offer?

Packages are flexible and can be tailored to suit your needs. Each package will start off with an energy audit to assess your home's insulation, heating and general energy efficiency, with suggestions for the most suitable and cost-effective improvements.

After the audit, the following options are available:

- Insulation – ceiling, underfloor, and hot water cylinder insulation
- Installation of 'clean' heating systems
- Removal of existing dirty or inefficient heaters (where required)

- Other energy efficiency measures – draught-proofing, pipe lagging, low-flow shower heads, energy efficient lighting
- Solar water heating.

There are two options for funding:

- An interest subsidy where the government will pay the interest up to a maximum of \$1,250, to support homeowners to pay off the cost of the improvements over time
- A one-off payment of 10% of the cost of insulation and clean heat, up to a maximum of \$500.

What should you do?

1. Check if you are eligible
2. Find out who is offering this funding in your area at www.energywise.govt.nz (under Funding Available) or call **0800 749 782**
3. Give them a call to see what their terms and conditions are, and to apply for funding.

WHY DOES MY HOUSE NEED TO BE BUILT BEFORE 1978?

Changes to the Building Regulations that came into force in 1978 (through legislation passed in 1977) made insulation compulsory for all new houses. So if your house was built before that time, it's very unlikely that it would have been insulated at the time it was built, and it may not have had any insulation installed since. Nearly two-thirds of New Zealand's homes were built before insulation became compulsory in 1978.

FUNDING FOR SOLAR WATER HEATING

You may be eligible for funding to install a solar water heating system in your home. A well-designed and installed solar water heating system can provide up to 75% of your hot water every year, and pay for itself over time through lower power bills.

What financial help is on offer?

A grant of \$1,000 is available for homeowners or building owners* who install residential-sized packaged solar water heating systems that meet EECA's standards for product, installation and cost-effectiveness.

There are two options for funding. You can choose to take the \$1,000 either as a cash grant or as a contribution of \$1,000 towards the cost of interest on a loan to pay for a solar water heating system.

See EECA's website www.energywise.govt.nz/solar for a list of participating packaged systems and the threshold for finance assistance for each system.

*Financial assistance applies to new and existing houses or buildings where the owner decides to specify solar water heating. If you buy a property where a builder or developer has already installed solar water heating you are not eligible for a solar grant or loan.

What are the eligibility criteria?

To qualify for a grant or loan you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Choose a complete packaged system or a retrofit packaged system from the list of participating systems published by EECA. A complete packaged system includes the tank, collector panel, pumps and controllers. A retrofit packaged system does not include the tank.
- Ensure the total installed cost of the system, including all components, all installation costs and building consent costs, falls below EECA's threshold for finance assistance.
- Obtain a building consent for the installation.
- Ensure your system is installed by an industry approved installer.

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