

## EnergySmart Rebate FAQ

### Q: How do I apply for an EnergySmart rebate?

A: Your advisor will work with you to apply for EnergySmart rebates once the project is complete. It's important to note **that rebates are only available to residents enrolled in EnergySmart prior to completing a rebate eligible project**. To enroll or check that you are enrolled, you can call 303-544-1000 or email [info@energysmartyes.com](mailto:info@energysmartyes.com).

### Q: What's involved in the rebate application process?

A: Once work is completed, your advisor will need to collect the final paid invoice along with any subsequent documentation confirming eligibility. Your advisor will then send you the rebate paperwork for completion via DocuSign.

### Q: How do I get my rebate and how long does it take to receive it?

A: Your rebate will arrive as a check in the mail. It can take up to 10 weeks for the rebate to fully process and arrive in the mail.

### Q: I completed a project prior to enrolling in EnergySmart, can I apply for a rebate?

A: No, EnergySmart requires enrollment prior to completing a project to access our rebates. Contact an advisor to enroll or check if you are enrolled before completing a project.

### Q: I completed a project in a previous year, can I apply for the rebate this year?

A: No, EnergySmart rebates must be issued within the year the project was completed and invoiced

### Q: Do I need to use a contractor listed on the EnergySmart website to be eligible for an EnergySmart rebate?

A: The contractors listed on the EnergySmart website are available as a resource and EnergySmart aligns with the primary utility's contractor requirement where applicable.

Ex: If Xcel is the utility there are contractor requirements for air source heat pump, ground source heat pump, heat pump water heater, and insulation projects. The contractor will need to be registered on the appropriate [Xcel Energy trade partner list](#).

Ex: If the City of Longmont is the utility the contractor needs to be registered as an [Efficiency Works Service Provider](#)

The lists provided by EnergySmart offer columns to show which contractors are registered in the appropriate lists.

### Q: Do I need to pre-qualify a project to access EnergySmart rebates?

A: Project pre-qualification is not required but highly encouraged due to EnergySmart's scope of work, equipment, or other rebate requirements.

### Q: What are exterior top plates and why is exterior top plate air sealing required in attic spaces to access the rebate?

Updated 4.14.2023

A: Exterior top plates are the top framing members of your exterior walls and are often points of air leakage in attic spaces. Due to the low angle of the roof deck, exterior top plates can be more difficult to access. Despite this, it is still important to seal all accessible exterior top plates to ensure better the effectiveness of the insulation and your home's efficiency and comfort. By sealing the exterior top plates with 2-part spray foam, you are also maximizing the R-value of the insulation. EnergySmart views exterior top plate air sealing as best practice and therefore requires it to be listed within the scope of work to access our attic insulation and air sealing rebate.

This picture shows how heat and air are escaping the home at the exterior top plate



2-part spray foam used to air seal the exterior top plate and maximize the R-value



#### **Q: What is a Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) test?**

A: The Combustion Appliance Zone is the area(s) where gas appliances (furnace, water heater, stove, etc.) are located in the home. These gas appliances, sometimes referred to as combustion appliances, need to exhaust all of their combustion by-products outside of the home. A CAZ test will check that the combustion appliances are venting and exhausting properly even under worst-case scenarios. This test is especially important to maintain the health and safety of the home.

#### **Q: When is CAZ testing required for an EnergySmart rebate and why?**

A: In EnergySmart, CAZ testing is required when any change is made that results in tightening the thermal envelope of the home. When a home with a combustion appliance is made to be more airtight than before, it can affect the ability of that appliance to exhaust properly. A CAZ test may also be required if a change or upgrade to the existing HVAC can affect the ability of an existing combustion appliance to exhaust and vent properly. By performing the CAZ test before and after work is completed, you can confirm the combustion appliance is operating safely despite the change in air leakage or equipment. Below is a list of potential EnergySmart rebate-eligible measures that require CAZ testing. If you are unsure if your project requires a CAZ test, speak with your advisor.

- Attic Insulation with Air Sealing
- Wall Insulation
- Foundation (Basement or Crawlspace) Insulation and Air Sealing
- Professionally Applied Air Sealing
- Sub-Floor or Frame Floor Insulation and Air Sealing
- Any HVAC upgrade that may affect an existing combustion appliance

#### **Q: What is a Blower Door Test?**

Updated 4.14.2023

A: A blower door test depressurizes your home to measure the home's overall air leakage.

**Q: When is Blower Door testing required for an EnergySmart rebate and why?**

A: Similar to CAZ testing, blower door testing is required when any change is made that results in tightening the thermal envelope of the home. It's important to make sure the home is airtight but also has adequate ventilation and the blower door testing will measure this. There comes a point when the home gets to a certain level of airtightness that you will want to start considering mechanical ventilation to better ensure the home has healthy and safe indoor air quality. Below is a list of potential EnergySmart rebate-eligible measures that require blower door testing. If you are unsure if your project requires blower door testing, speak with your advisor.

- Attic Insulation with Air Sealing
- Wall Insulation
- Foundation (Basement or Crawlspace) Insulation and Air Sealing
- Professionally Applied Air Sealing
- Sub-Floor or Frame Floor Insulation and Air Sealing

**Q: How do I determine if my air source heat pump is considered "Cold Climate Rated"?**

A: EnergySmart will collect two certifications to confirm an air source heat pump is "Cold Climate Rated."

1. [The Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute \(AHRI\) certification program](#) measures and verifies the equipment's specifications. Your advisor may ask for the AHRI certificate to confirm a system's specifications (SEER, EER, and HSPF) align with "Cold Climate" rebate requirements.
2. NEEP (Northeast Energy Efficiency Partners) hosts a [product list of air source heat pumps](#) that meet the latest version of the ["Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump" Specification](#). Air source heat pumps must be on this list to be eligible for the EnergySmart "Cold Climate" rebate. Additionally, the air source heat pump specifications on the NEEP list must have that the COP is greater than 1.75 at 5°F or has the capacity at 5°F of at least 70% of the BTU at 47°F. Your advisor will utilize the AHRI reference number of the air source heat pump to confirm the NEEP "Cold Climate" ratings.

**Q: How can I determine if my appliance is Energy Star rated?**

A: Energy Star rated appliances can be confirmed on the Energy Star website using their [Product Finder](#).

**Q: What is NABCEP and why does my solar contractor need to be NABCEP certified to be eligible for the Solar PV rebate?**

A: [NABCEP, the North American Board for Certified Energy Practitioners](#), is a widely recognized certification organization for companies and professions in the renewable energy field. Working with a NABCEP-certified contractor helps to ensure the contractor has gone through appropriate training and is up to date on technical knowledge within the solar industry.

Updated 4.14.2023