

## EmPower New York Guidelines for Heating System Fuel Conversions to Natural Gas

### I. Eligibility Criteria

- a. EmPower New York will provide incentives for heating system fuel conversions of primary heating systems for households heating primarily with oil, propane, wood or electricity to natural gas if:
  - i. The customer must be the **property owner** and has resided in the dwelling to be served for at least 6 months.
  - ii. The household is documented to be a customer of a natural gas utility and has natural gas in the home, or natural gas service will be supplied to the home by the Utility prior to conversion.
  - iii. Dwelling is a 1-4 family residence.
  - iv. Heating system was operational at the time the dwelling was purchased.
  - v. There must be a net positive energy savings, except where the existing heating fuel is electricity.
  - vi. The dwelling must be free of unsanitary conditions or other health and safety concerns that pose risks to the contractor.

### II. Available Incentives:

- a. For Single Family Homes
  - i. Customers eligible for EmPower New York services will receive an incentive of up to \$7,000 total for the entire eligible workscope, including other eligible Home Performance and Electric Reduction measures.
  - ii. Costs above the measure or program caps must be paid directly by the homeowner and may be financed through available NYSERDA sponsored loan options or private lenders.
  - iii. Incentives for the heating system conversion includes necessary distribution repairs, gas-piping inside the home, tank decommissioning and removal.
  - iv. Incentives shall not cover the costs of meter hookups, or any cost related to installing or upgrading gas lines before the meter.
- b. For 2-4 Family Residences
  - i. A central heating system serving an eligible landlord in an owner occupied unit and additional rental units are eligible for incentives, with a cap of up to \$7,000 including the heating system and \$5,000 for eligible tenant units for other energy efficiency measures.
  - ii. A stand-alone heating system serving an eligible landlord in an owner occupied unit is eligible for incentives, with a cap of \$7,000 including the heating system and \$5,000 for eligible tenants for other energy efficiency measures.
  - iii. Rental units served by stand-alone heating systems are not eligible for incentives to convert heating equipment.

III. **Assignment of Work**

- a. Work will be assigned to contractors based on criteria outlined in Section XX. Participating BPI Gold Star contractors must have BPI Heating System Specialist Certification or equivalent heating system manufacturer certification on staff.

IV. **Project Documentation**

- a. It is advantageous to the household if the sizing of the heating system takes into consideration shell measures installed through the program. All projects receiving an incentive must include documentation of attic and wall insulation levels and approximate square footage of un-insulated areas.
- b. The following must be provided to the Program:
  - i. Photo documentation of existing equipment, including photos for any specific problems discovered;
  - ii. A written detailed estimate using the Combustion Appliance Form; and
  - iii. A signed Homeowner Agreement.

V. **Considerations in Developing a Workslope**

- a. Contractor must consider the household's ability to maintain the installed system according to manufacturer's recommendations, including filters, valves, etc. when proposing high efficiency equipment.
- b. Customer must be provided with all appropriate manuals and warranties, and guidance on how to operate the system.
- c. A two-stage furnace installation may be considered in situations where insulation work will not be completed immediately after heating system installation.
- d. NYSERDA reserves the right to obtain additional bids for all proposed work.
- e. Contractor must consider options for the homes hot water heater. For example, but not limited to:
  - i. Ensuring that an atmospheric water heater that is orphaned due to the installation of a high efficiency heating system drafts into a lined chimney and drafts properly.
  - ii. Water heaters that are dependent on or connected to the heating system (side-arms, etc.) are considered part of the heating system and incentives for replacement are subject to the caps outlined in Section II.
  - iii. Proposing replacement of the water heater to the homeowner may be considered through the Assisted Home Performance program.

Change orders totaling less than \$200 may be completed without prior approval. In these instances, the contractor must notify program implementation staff prior to invoicing.

If other energy efficiency measures are not completed immediately, contractor may provide an invoice for only the heating system work and audit fees prior to completion of the entire project.

**Special Considerations for the National Fuel Gas (NFG) Conversion Program:**

National Fuel Gas is providing funding for heating system conversions to natural gas to a limited number of low-income customers (60% SMI or less) in their utility territory. All program guidelines apply as above, with the exceptions noted below:

- I. Eligible customers must be a **property owner or renter**;
- II. Available incentives are up to \$4,800 per household for the in-home gas line installation and equipment conversion costs;
- III. Landlords must sign a Landlord Agreement and will be responsible to pay 25% of the costs for rental units; and
- IV. Participating Contractors must prioritize services to these households over other EmPower New York program referrals.