

EmPower+ Eligible Measures List

This is a general guide to measures eligible for incentives available for Tier 1 Low-Income and Tier 3 Moderate-Income households. Eligibility may vary based on the energy efficiency requirements for each upgrade type, results of the comprehensive home assessment, fuel type, energy utility, and funding source availability.

Subject to the terms described in the following tables, measures marked with a “✓” below are “Prequalified” and eligible for Tier 1 Low-Income and Tier 3 Moderate-Income project incentives with no additional cost-effectiveness screening. Measures facilitating the installation of a project for up to 30% of the project cost are “Enabling Measures” and are deducted from the project cost per the Project Lifetime Savings Review formula described on Page 7. Items on this list without a checkmark, “Standard” measures, may have limited, or not be eligible for, incentives.

If the project includes one or more “Standard” upgrades, the project is subject to a project lifetime savings review as described on Page 7. In addition to project incentives, NYSERDA also offers several financing options through NYSERDA’s Green Jobs Green New York (GJGNY) Residential Loan Fund: Smart Energy Loan, On-Bill Recovery (OBR) Loan, and the Companion Loan. Review the [GJGNY Residential Financing Implementation Manual for Participating Contractors](#) for loan descriptions and requirements. All items listed are eligible for financing, subject to cost-effectiveness requirements.

No-Heat Situations

The program will no longer subsidize fossil fuel HVAC equipment unless the home is in an emergency no-heat situation and the customer has either applied for the [Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement \(HERR\)](#) benefit and received a denial. Please refer to Section 5.9 of the [Program Manual](#) for No- Heat Guidelines.

Table 1. Eligible Measures List

! - No Heat Emergency Only

Eligible Measures		Minimum Efficiency Requirements	Prequalified	Incentive Cap (Tier 1/Tier 3)
Primary Heating and Cooling System ^{1,3}	Air Source Heat Pump (electric split systems) ⁴	Listed on NEEP Cold Climate and ENERGY STAR Qualified. Program approval required if dollar savings are not positive.		
	Ground Source Heat Pump ⁴	See NYS Clean Heat Program for requirements.		
	Furnace— Natural Gas	AFUE 96% with ECM (Mobile Home: AFUE 95% with ECM). Only replacing existing Natural Gas furnace with efficiency of 80% or less.		Financing Only
	Furnace— LP	! AFUE 95%		Financing Only
	Furnace— Fuel Oil, Kerosene	! AFUE 85%		Financing Only
	Boiler – Natural Gas Condensing	AFUE 90%. Includes combi-boilers. Only replacing existing Natural Gas boiler with efficiency of 80% or less.		Financing Only
	Boiler – LP Condensing	! AFUE 90%		Financing Only
	Boiler – Fuel Oil/Kerosene Condensing ⁷	! AFUE 87%		Financing Only
	Boiler – LP/Natural Gas Non-Condensing	! AFUE 85%. Project must include boiler reset control.		Financing Only
	Boiler – Steam	! AFUE 82% (size must be matched to cumulative capacity of connected radiators, per Institute of Boilers & Radiator Mfrs (IBR) standards).		Financing Only
	Pellet Stove ⁹	EPA certified for particulate matter output of 2.0 grams per hour or less. Replacement of existing less efficient pellet or wood stove model.	✓	\$2,000/1,000
	Pellet Stove-Recycling Fee ⁹	An additional \$500 incentive is available if an existing wood stove, pellet stove, or insert (with firebox) is recycled.	✓	\$500
	Central Air Conditioner (split system) ^{10,11}	AHRI Certificate Required. 14.5 SEER and ENERGY STAR Qualified.		No Incentive
	Room Air Conditioner ¹²	ENERGY STAR Qualified. Health & Safety only with a doctor's note.		\$0/\$250
	Distribution Improvements ¹³	Installed in accordance with all applicable state and local codes.		
	Heat Pipe Insulation	R-3	✓	
	Duct Sealing	UL 181B mastic or tape; use of "duct tape" is disallowed.		
	Duct Insulation	Installed in accordance with all applicable state and local codes.		
	Retrofit Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM)	Separate measure for blower fan replacement only. Installed in accordance with all applicable state and local codes.		
Building Shell ¹⁴	Insulation – Cellulose, Fiberglass	See Table 1A for specific R-value requirements. Must be accompanied by blower door assisted air sealing per BPI and program guidelines.	✓	
	Insulation – Spray foam, Foam board ¹⁵	See Table 1A for specific R-value requirements. Must be accompanied by blower door assisted air sealing per BPI and program guidelines.		
	Air Sealing ¹⁶	Supervised by professional; blower door assisted per BPI and program guidelines. Some measures not prequalified.	✓	
	Exterior Doors	ENERGY STAR Qualified. May be subject to SHPO review.		
	Replacement Windows ²²	U Value 0.28, SHGC .032, Air Leakage ≤ 0.3 CFM/ft^2. Including Jalousie window. May be subject to SHPO review.		\$2,000
	Movable Window Insulation	R-3		

Eligible Measures		Minimum Efficiency Requirements	Prequalified	Incentive Cap (Tier 1/Tier 3)
Hot Water Heater ¹⁸	Heat Pump Water Heaters	ENERGY STAR Qualified. Installed per manufacturer specifications, use professional discretion when citing.	✓	\$4,000/\$2,000
	Electric Resistance Storage Tank ¹⁸	Replacement for Health & Safety only. As high an efficiency (UEF) as possible based on product availability.		\$1,250/625
	Mobile Home Storage Tank ¹⁸	Replacement for Health & Safety only. Electric: 0.92 UEF, Mobile Home Rated. Sealed Combustion (Direct Vent): Mobile Home Rated		\$2,000/1,000
Appliances ^{2,3}	Dehumidifier	ENERGY STAR Qualified. Can only be installed in basement/crawlspace.	Enabling	\$400/200
	Air Purifier ²⁰	Replacement of existing appliance or determined to be medically necessary (Doctor's note required). AHAM Verifide® . Follows EPA Guidance . ENERGY STAR Qualified.	Enabling	\$250/125
Direct Install ^{3,21}	LEDs	ENERGY STAR Qualified. Refer to Lighting Guidelines in CRM.	✓	
	DHW Pipe Insulation	R-3. 9' maximum length (3' Cold and 6' Hot) for Direct Install.	✓	NA/\$500
	Low Flow Showerhead	EPA WaterSense: 2.0 gallons per minute. Aerating type showerheads not eligible. Limit one per household member.	✓	
	Advanced Power Strip ²²	Up to 2 Tier 1 or Tier 2 APS replacements that need to provide 1 primary and 3 secondary outlets with at least 1,000 joules of surge protection.	✓	
	DHW Pressure Relief Valve Discharge Pipe		✓	\$25
	Door Sweep	Exterior doors (including to unconditioned spaces (i.e., basement)).	✓	NA/\$500
	Weatherstrip	Exterior doors (including to unconditioned spaces (i.e., basement)).	✓	NA/\$500
	Detectors - CO & Smoke	UL Listed. When one isn't already present. Limit one per dwelling. Install per local/state code.	Enabling	
	Furnace Filter		✓	
	Furnace Filter Slot Cover	When not present or malfunctioning.	✓	
	Programmable Thermostat	5+2 day programmable thermostat including smart thermostat. Limited to one thermostat installed per zone.	✓	

¹ Defined as the primary heating system for the space being conditioned. Secondary heating systems is not eligible. The new unit must be the primary heat for the space being served.

² Costs beyond caps are responsibility of the customer.

³ Specific requirements for ENERGY STAR Qualified products can be found by visiting: <https://www.energystar.gov/products>.

⁴ Measures only require positive dollar savings when replacing electric, propane, oil, kerosene, or wood units. Natural gas units are not eligible for replacement. The home where the heat pump is being installed (heating/cooling only) must meet the minimum insulation level specification set by NYSERDA (see [Program Manual](#) Section 5.10). The existing heating system must be decommissioned.

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⁸ In instances where venting conditions require the installation of a non-condensing boiler, boiler reset controls must be included in the project; tank-less coil DHW is not allowed.

⁹ Pellet stove must supply a primary portion of heat. Listed on [EPA-Certified Wood Stove Database](#) or manufacturer documentation showing that the unit meets requirements.

¹⁰ Not eligible for program incentives but measure savings can be used to determine project lifetime savings.

¹¹ Measure is only eligible when there is a replacement of an existing appliance or existing cooling system.

¹² Tier 1 Low-Income customers must be referred to [OTDA Cooling](#) for assistance. If denied, full cost of unit may be covered.

¹³ In instances where an area of a home lacks adequate distribution, installation of new distribution to serve the area is eligible. The area lacking adequate distribution must be located within the pre-existing thermal boundary.

¹⁴ Moving objects on behalf of the customer costs are required to be included in the insulation installation costs.

¹⁵ Rim joists and cantilever foam measures are Prequalified.

¹⁶ The following air sealing measures are NOT Prequalified: Glass block and hopper windows in unconditioned basement space and window glass repair. Incentives for these measures have a per window cap at \$400 for Tier 1 Low-Income projects \$200 for Tier 3 Moderate-Income projects. Measures require project lifetime savings to be greater than the Program incentive. Note that glass block in conditioned space is not an eligible measure and hopper windows in conditioned space must be entered as windows and meet minimum efficiency requirements.

¹⁷ Use manufacturer's sizing guidelines or visit <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/water-heating/sizing-new-water-heater>. For ENERGY STAR criteria, including UEF ratings and draw patterns, visit energystar.gov/products/water_heaters/residential_water_heaters_key_product_criteria

¹⁸ Incentivized only to correct Health & Safety issues in situations where a Heat Pump Water Heater is not a feasible option. Acceptable Health & Safety issues for water heater replacement include non-operational, leaking and not passing BPI test procedures. Existing fuel type must be used; fuel conversions not allowed. Electric units with burned-out electric elements must be replaced with Heat Pump Water Heaters unless the space doesn't allow for one. Measure will require project lifetime savings to be greater than the Program incentive.

²⁰ Utilize [AHAM's Room Air Cleaner Certification Program](#). CADR \geq 2/3 of the room's area.

²¹ See [Program Manual](#) Section 5.14 for additional details on Direct install pricing and procedures.

²² Tier 1 APS must be a replacement for AV and/or IT equipment plugged in a standard power strip. Tier 2 APS must be replacement for AV equipment only plugged in a standard power strip or Tier 1 APS.

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²² Incentivized only in situations where window glass is broken or missing, and repair is not a feasible option. A photo of each existing window proposed for replacement must be included with the project's workscope submission.

Table 1A. Insulation Requirements

Insulation Measure	Minimum Efficiency Requirements		
	R-Value	Cellulose / Fiberglass	Spray Foam / Foam board
Attic Entry – Hatch	R-20		Fireproofing when required.
Attic Entry – Pull-Down Stairs	R-13		Fireproofing when required.
Attic Open/ Floored	R-38 Average or Fill to Capacity	Maximum depth of cavity.	N/A
Attic Knee Wall	R-15	Dense packed with air barrier.	Fireproofing when required.
Attic Slopes	R-38 or Fill to Capacity	Maximum depth of cavity.	Fireproofing when required.
Attic Gable End Walls	R-14	N/A	Fireproofing when required.
Exterior Walls	R-14	Maximum depth of cavity.	
Band Joist	R-14	Maximum depth of cavity.	
Rim Joist	R-14	N/A	

Insulation Measure	Minimum Efficiency Requirements		
	R-Value	Cellulose / Fiberglass	Spray Foam / Foam board
Cantilever	R-21	Maximum depth of cavity.	Fireproofing when required.
Garage Ceiling	R-21	Maximum depth of cavity.	Fireproofing when required.
Crawl Space Ceiling	R-21	Maximum depth of cavity.	Crawlspace must not contain any mechanicals or distribution work. Space must be rendered inaccessible after insulation. Fireproofing when required.
Crawl Space Walls	R-14	N/A	Fireproofing when required.
Foundation (Basement) Walls	R-14	N/A	Down to 2' below grade; Area is not heated, and/or finished as a living space, No Drywall; Fireproofing when required.
Mobile Home Walls	R-6		
Mobile Home Attic	R-24		
Mobile Home Belly	R-21	See specific technical guidance document.	

Eligible Health & Safety Measures and Accessories

All Health and Safety Measures and Accessories must be itemized for the purposes of determining incentive eligibility and a project's cost effectiveness. When projects with the following Health and Safety amounts and all other measures are pre-qualified the projects will be approved without having to pass project level cost effectiveness: Tier 1 Low-Income-\$1,000, Tier 3 Moderate Income-\$500.

The costs associated with the installation of certain measures can be included in the related energy saving measure. Items such as high-hat covers and outlet gaskets can be included with air sealing. Baffles, insulation dams, and creating access to the attic can be included with attic insulation.

Table 2. Eligible Health & Safety Measures and Accessories

Eligible Measures		Program Requirements	Prequalified
Health and Safety	Bath Fan: New, Replacement and Venting	Insulated duct in unconditioned space. Vent to exterior in all cases. Installation as needed by signs of moisture.	Enabling
	Dryer Vent Repair	Vent to exterior in all cases.	Enabling
	Heating/DHW System Repair/Upgrades including CAZ Corrections: Repairs/Upgrades (including power venting kits) to correct carbon monoxide failures, provide sufficient combustion air, prevent CAZ depressurization, spillage or inadequate draft.	Maximum incentives: Tier 1 Low-Income \$500, Tier 3 Moderate-Income \$250. Includes repairs only to exterior wood boilers, not upgrades. Cap exceptions may be considered with a Heating Equipment Repair or Replacement (HERR) denial or implementation staff has determined the project ineligible for HERR.	Enabling
	Fuel (gas/oil) Leak Repair	Gas leaks require confirmation with bubble solution.	Enabling
	Moisture Barriers, Crawlspace/Vapor Barrier	Required on dirt floors.	Enabling
	Heat/Energy Recovery Ventilator	ENERGY STAR Qualified.	Enabling
	Ventilation Fans	Make-up air needs to meet ventilation requirements. Whole house fans or similar attic exhaust fans are not eligible.	Enabling
	Knob and Tube Wiring Upgrade to install insulation	Work must be performed per local jurisdiction. Not cost prohibitive.	Enabling

Eligible Measures		Program Requirements	Prequalified
	Chimney Liners and Caps	Only to correct Health & Safety issues.	Enabling
	Home Repairs: Due to water damage, molds and mildew, ice dams or other symptoms of poor building performance, if the cause(s) of building performance-related damage are addressed	Includes gutter repair/replacement and roof repair. Mold/mildew abatement must be completed according to New York State law and EPA guidelines.	Enabling
	Gas Oven Repair/Replacement	Only to correct Health & Safety issues (CO can't be corrected with a Clean & Tune). Costs beyond caps are responsibility of customer. Maximum incentives: Tier 1 Low-Income \$500, Tier 3 Moderate-Income \$250.	
Health and Safety	Oil Tank Removal or Replacement ²	Tier 1 Low-Income only when removal or replacement required by Code or to solve a Health & Safety issue. Tank must be removed according to local jurisdiction and EPA guidelines. Tier 1 Low-Income or Tier 3 Moderate Income eligible when removed with the conversion of an oil-heating system to an ASHP/GSHP (See footnote for caps).	Enabling
	Sump Pump: New or Replacement	As needed by signs of bulk moisture, at contractor recommendation.	Enabling
	Asbestos Abatement	Work must be completed according to New York State law and EPA guidelines. Not cost prohibitive.	Enabling
	Lead Abatement ¹	Work must be completed according to New York State law and EPA guidelines.	No Incentive, Enabling
	Radon Abatement	Work must be completed according to New York State law and EPA guidelines.	No Incentive, Enabling
Qualified Accessories	Attic Access	Cutting access and patching or adding insulated hatch only (not stairs).	☐
	Attic Insulation Damming	All hatches where loose fill insulation will be installed, areas adjacent to chimneys, chases, storage, and mechanical platforms.	☐
	Attic Ventilation: baffles, soffit, gable, or ridge vents	Installed in accordance with all applicable state and local codes.	☐
	Attic Storage Platform / Mechanical Access	Storage platform limited to two 8x4 sheets (64 ft ²).	
	Drywall Repairs	Includes reinforcing existing surface for dense packing.	Enabling
	Thermal Barriers for Spray Foam (drywall/intumescent paint)	Required if area is not permanently sealed or contains mechanicals.	
	Insulation/Debris Removal	As needed to insulate to Program minimum standards. Measure prequalified up to \$500 (Tier 1) or \$250 (Tier 3).	
	Small Job Set Up Fee	Only for non-direct-install projects where a total of less than 500 sq ft of insulation is blown.	
	Furnace Humidifier		
	Fuel Conversion Accessories		
	Well Pump Replacement		Enabling

¹Minor remediation under health and safety may be considered at the program's discretion to facilitate energy efficiency work.

²When removed with conversion of an oil-system to an ASHP/GSHP incentives are 100% and capped based on tank location and Tier 1/Tier 3 incentive level: Above ground (\$2000/\$1,000) and Below ground (\$5000/\$2500).

Other Enabling Measures

In addition to the Enabling Measures indicated above, the following are also considered Enabling Measures for the purposes of the Project Lifetime Savings Review:

- Assessment Fee
- Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) Test
- Main Panel Electrical Service Upgrade
- Other Fee
- Repair Broken Plumbing Vents in Attic
- Blower Door Test
- No Show Fees
- Permits
- Tolls (As part of the Assessment)

Incentives

Tier 1 Low-Income or Tier 3 Moderate-Income income-qualified customers are eligible for incentives toward the energy efficiency work scope for single-family and 2 to 4-family homes per the table below. In the event the Tier 1 Low-Income incentive cap is exceeded or for the balance of the project cost for Tier 3 Moderate-Income projects, the project balance may be eligible for financing through a Smart Energy or On-Bill Recovery Loan.

Program	Income Qualification	Work Scope Incentive*	Incentive Amount
EmPower+ (Tier 1)	< 60% State Median Income	100% Up to Program Caps	Please see Section 3.1 of the Program Manual for Tier 1 Low-Income and Tier 3 Moderate-Income Incentive Caps
EmPower+ (Tier 3)	60-80% Area Median Income	100% Up to Program Caps	

*Unless limited by measure eligibility or price caps.

Incentive Eligibility

EmPower+ is funded through multiple funding sources, each with different requirements and funding levels. Access to Program incentives may be impacted by the household's utility provider, participation in other income-eligible programs, and availability of funds at the time of application. In addition, certain funding sources may have terms or conditions that differ from standard program incentive cap amounts. Participating Contractors can work with their account manager who can assist with determining available funding on a given project.

Project Lifetime Savings Review

Projects with non- "Prequalified" measures require the project's lifetime dollar savings to be greater than 80% of the Tier 1 Low-Income or Tier 3 Moderate-Income incentive. Annual Energy Savings and Effective Useful Life determined by the [New York State Technical Resource Manual \(TRM\)](#). If enabling measures are more than 30% of the project cost, the amount over 30% will count towards the incentive to savings ratio needed for project approval.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Sum of [Annual Energy (\$) Dollar Savings} \times \text{Effective Useful Life (EUL)]} \\ & > \text{NYSERDA Program Incentive (- Enabling Measure Costs)} \times 80\% \end{aligned}$$

Financing Options

GJGNY Residential Financing is available statewide for all eligible measures that meet the cost-effectiveness standards of the loan product. The GJGNY Residential Financing Program offers GJGNY Loans (Smart Energy, On-Bill Recovery and Renewable Energy Tax Credit Bridge Loan) which are unsecured loans up to twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars for one- to four-family residential energy efficiency improvements or renewable energy system projects.

For additional information about GJGNY Residential Financing including terms and conditions see the [Residential Financing Implementation Manual](#).

Version History

August 2, 2023

- Minimum Efficiency Requirements for refrigerators and freezers eligible measures changed from “Existing appliance greater than 10 years old. ENERGY STAR Qualified,” to “Existing appliance older than 2011. ENERGY STAR Qualified.”
- Minimum Efficiency Requirements for Detectors CO2 and smoke changed from “UL Listed. When one isn't already present. Limit one per dwelling,” to UL Listed. When one isn't already present. Limit one per dwelling. Install per local/state code.”

June 2024

- Added to Paragraph 2 on Page 1. “Measures facilitating the installation of a project for up to 30% of the project cost are “Enabling Measures” and are deducted from the project cost per the Project Lifetime Savings Review formula on described on Page 7 .”
- In the measure tables, “Enabling Measures” were identified.
- Page 2, Footnote ⁴ Updated to remove replacement of natural gas units as program eligible
- Added the Other Enabling Measures List on page 7.
- Added “- Enabling Measure Costs” to the Project Lifetime Savings Review formula on Page 7.
- Updated HPWH incentives to \$4,000/\$2,000

March 2025

- Removed measure information for refrigerators and freezers.
- Removed footnote #4 reference under Heat Pump Water Heaters

May 2025

- Updated hyperlink in minimum efficiency requirements for the Ground Source Heat Pump eligible measure.

July 2025

- Updated document to reflect that fossil fuel heating equipment is no longer eligible for Program incentives, only financing.