

WVOE Rebate Programs FAQs V1.0

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West Virginia Office of Energy (WVOE) Home Energy Rebates Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a list of frequently asked questions about West Virginia's Home Energy Rebate Programs. This list will be updated periodically to reflect program design details as they are developed and address additional questions submitted to WVOE about the programs.

About West Virginia's Home Energy Rebate Programs

The Inflation Reduction Act included two **rebate programs** for home energy efficiency and home electrification projects.

1. The **Home Efficiency Rebates (HER)** will range from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for individual households and up to \$400,000 for multifamily buildings for energy efficiency retrofits. Higher rebates are available for households that meet specific income qualifications. The rebate will depend on the amount of energy saved and the income eligibility of the dwelling occupant. WVOE is awaiting approval from DOE to establish rebate levels for participants with income less than 80% AMI.
2. The **Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR)** will provide point-of-sale rebates for low- to medium-income households (households with income less than 150% AMI) for heat pumps; heat pump water heaters; heat pump clothes dryers; electric stoves, cooktops, ranges, or ovens; electric load service center (breaker box/electrical panel); electric wiring; and insulation, air sealing, and ventilation.

Q: When will the program begin? When will rebates be available?

A: WVOE is preparing the DOE applications and blueprints and expects to have them submitted to DOE by Early 2025. The rebate program cannot launch until all materials are approved by DOE. In the meantime, WVOE will enter the program design phase to ensure the program is simple and easy to use for participants and contractors alike. West Virginia residents can stay informed of program developments by signing up for the Home Energy Rebate Programs mailing list.

Q: Where can I find out more about West Virginia's Home Energy Rebate Programs?

A: West Virginia's Home Energy Rebate Programs are in the application phase and will expand the program website and issue outreach materials closer to the program start dates. In addition, anyone interested in the program is encouraged to sign up for West Virginia's Home Energy Rebate Programs mailing list or the Home Energy Rebate Programs for Contractors mailing list.

Q: Can I participate in both the Home Efficiency Rebates (HER) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) programs?

A: A single household may participate in both the HER and HEAR programs under the following conditions:

- The household meets all income requirements for both the HER and HEAR programs.
- Neither the HER nor HEAR may be combined with other federal grants or rebates for the same single upgrade.

Q: What can I do now to prepare for the rebates?

A: There are many steps homeowners and renters can take now to prepare for West Virginia's Home Energy Rebate Programs. If your home needs urgent energy efficiency upgrades, do not wait for the Home Energy Rebates to become available in your area. If you need financial assistance to accomplish these upgrades, existing programs like the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) and [tax credits](#) may be available.

If you are not sure which energy upgrades may be a good fit for your home, consider contacting your electric utility or getting a home energy assessment from a professional. In some cases, home energy assessments may be offered at low or no cost from existing programs or be eligible for [tax credits](#) up to 30% of the assessment cost.

Q: Who is eligible for rebates?

A: For the Home Efficiency Rebates (HER) program, rebates are available to individuals carrying out energy efficiency upgrades of single-family homes and multifamily buildings. These rebates are available to households of any income. For households with a total annual income below [80% of the area median income](#) (AMI), rebates can cover a higher percentage of the total project costs.

West Virginia's Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) programs are available to low- or moderate-income households and individuals or entities that own a multifamily building with low- or moderate-income households comprising at least 50% of the residents.

A low- or moderate-income household is one where an individual or family has a total annual income of less than 150% of the median income of the area in which the individual or family resides. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [reports AMI statistics across the United States](#).

Q: Will I be taxed on the rebate amount?

A: West Virginia's Home Efficiency Rebates (HER) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) Programs will be treated as a reduction in the purchase price or cost of property

for eligible upgrades and projects. The consumer receiving the IRA rebate will not be required to report its value as income.

Q: I need a home energy upgrade now. What should I do?

A: WVOE does not recommend that households wait to accomplish needed home energy upgrades or projects. Households looking for home energy upgrade assistance today cannot yet access these rebates but may be eligible for other federal programs, including [tax credits](#), the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#), and other local utility programs.

A homeowner can access rebates through West Virginia's Home Efficiency Rebates (HER) program if a project was initiated on or after August 16, 2022 only if the project fulfills all [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\) requirements](#). WVOE does not have additional requirements for retroactive rebates. Given the unique requirements of the Home Efficiency Rebates (HER) program and the general complexity of whole-home retrofit projects, WVOE cannot provide rebates before the rebate programs are operational. More information on how to apply for a retroactive rebate will be provided at the launch of West Virginia's Home Energy Rebate Programs. As required by federal law, retroactive rebates are not available for Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR).

Q: The IRA rebates were announced over two years ago. Why is it taking so long? What is West Virginia's timeline for distributing these funds to West Virginia residents?

A: The time it takes for funds to get from Congress into the hands of West Virginians can be frustratingly long. While funds were federally allocated, it took months for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to release the program guidance and state applications for the funds. WVOE is committed to getting these funds to West Virginia residents as quickly as possible while acknowledging that a program of this size and scope is complex and requires thoughtful planning to ensure the process is easy to use for all West Virginians.

Q: How is WVOE providing rebates that specifically meet the needs of disadvantaged communities?

A: For households at less than 80% of AMI, WVOE is considering providing rebates at a higher level than those set by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Some households will qualify for these upgrades with no out of pocket costs. More information about the rebate levels will be announced before the program is launched.

WVOE is coordinating with state agencies, utilities, and nonprofits to ensure we provide robust program outreach and education in disadvantaged communities.

Q: What documentation is required to prove income eligibility?

A: To determine income eligibility, WVOE will utilize both direct proof of income and categorical eligibility.

For direct proof of income, applicants may provide the following documentation:

1. Pay statement with YTD earnings from each employer
2. 1040 IRS Tax Form (if self-employed)
3. W2/1099 Tax Form (most recent year)
4. Unemployment/benefit statement or payment history
5. Government benefit statement
6. Retirement/pension statement

As an alternative, categorical eligibility is the determination that a household meets income requirements by verifying household participation in another state or Federal program that includes income qualification thresholds at least as stringent as the relevant Home Energy Rebates threshold. The list of federal programs approved for categorical eligibility for DOE Home Energy Rebates [can be found here](#).

Q: Are rebates available for new construction?

A: Rebates are available for qualified electrification projects as part of new construction within the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) program. New construction is not eligible for the Home Efficiency Rebates (HER) program.

Q: I am a contractor. How do I become an approved contractor for West Virginia's Home Energy Rebate Programs?

A: Contractors interested in participating in the program should join the Home Energy Rebate Programs for Contractors mailing list to receive updates about contractor requirements, program training, and rebate application information.

Q: Can we use other incentive programs, such as the Weatherization Assistance Program, with these rebates?

A: WVOE expects West Virginia residents will be able to use multiple programs, including the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) and local utility rebates with West Virginia's Home Energy Rebate Programs. However, the process is complex and WVOE is awaiting further guidance from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). More information on stacking incentives will be available when the program launches.