

# a Matter of Comfort



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 **CLIMATECARE.**

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Welcome to the *Spring 2009* edition of *A Matter of Comfort!*

Learn about the **NEW Federal Home Renovation Tax Credit**, tips to keep your **equipment running safely and efficiently**, low-cost activities your family can **enjoy this summer, and much more!**

Check out the **NEW ClimateCare Cooperative Website!**

Get the latest information on available rebates, access tips to keep your family comfortable, learn about what it means to be a ClimateCare contractor, browse the newsletter archive...and the list continues. Check it out...



[www.climatecare.com](http://www.climatecare.com)

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# What incentives are out there?

Governments have put together the following offers to encourage you to update your home's comfort system. Many rebates are available, you could save over \$10,000!

## Home Renovation Tax Credit

Introduced in January, this NEW 15% Home Renovation Tax Credit (up to a maximum of \$1,350) may be

claimed on qualified home improvements which may include the replacement of equipment such as furnaces or air conditioners. It is in effect until February 1, 2010. Talk to us for more information.

## Federal Government ecoENERGY Program & Ontario Home Energy Retrofit Program

Some examples include the following:

Eligible Improvements / Retrofits	Federal Grant Amount	Provincial Grant Amount	Total Available Grant
Replace your cooling equipment with an ENERGY STAR® qualified system that has a SEER of 14.5 or higher.	\$250	\$250	\$500
Install a heat recovery ventilator that is certified by the Home Ventilating Institute.	\$375	\$375	\$750
Install a CAN/CSA-C448 compliant earth-energy system (ground or water source).	\$4,375	\$4,375	\$8,750
Replace your toilet with a low-flush or dual-flush toilet rated at 6 litres per flush or less.	\$65	\$65	\$130
Replace your heating equipment with an ENERGY STAR® qualified gas furnace that has a 92.0% AFUE or better, and a DC variable-speed motor.	\$625	\$625	\$1,250

## Ontario Power Authority's Cool Savings Rebate Program

- **\$25 rebate** when you replace your old, non-programmable thermostat with a new one that is programmable.
- **\$125 rebate** when you replace your heating equipment with a mid- or high-efficiency furnace with an Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM).
- **\$250 rebate** when you replace an existing central air conditioner (CAC) with an ENERGY STAR® qualified CAC system, heat pump or ductless split system that achieves 14.5 SEER and 12 EER.
- **\$400 rebate** when you replace an existing CAC with a CAC system or ground source heat pump that achieves 15 SEER and 12.5 EER or higher.

*For full details and help every step of the way to ensure you claim every dollar you qualify for, give us a call.*

# Rebates! Why Now?

## Two words – Economy, Environment

With the current global economic situation, a deeper Canadian recession is a distinct possibility. It is more important than ever for businesses and governments alike to do all they can to stimulate our economy. Offering rebates and other incentives is meant to encourage spending which may help turn the tide.

High-efficiency products can save families hundreds of dollars in energy bills each year – this translates into enormous savings in electricity and fossil fuel consumption which helps contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment for us all.

Great energy savings, superior products, money in your pocket. Pretty nice, eh?



# Why should I care about efficiency?

Higher Efficiency  
=  
Less Money

The greater the efficiency of your equipment the lower your energy bills.

Higher Efficiency  
=  
Less Pollution

Improved efficiency will help you reduce your carbon output and environmental footprint.

## Did you know that 60% of your yearly electricity bill can go to heating and cooling your home?

There are many simple changes you can make to help save money (see Efficiency

Tips article). For optimum efficiency install ENERGY STAR®, qualified high-efficiency equipment.

## Efficiency Tips

1. Invest in a properly sized ENERGY STAR® qualified air conditioner that will dehumidify and create a healthier, more comfortable home. It will save you money too.
2. Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
3. Ensure duct work is cleaned regularly.
4. Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you first turn on your air conditioner – it will not cool your home any faster but could result in excessive cooling (and therefore unnecessary energy use).
5. Sign-up for a maintenance plan to ensure your system is working at peak efficiency.
6. Avoid placing lamps, televisions or computers near your thermostat. It senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
7. Plant trees or shrubs to shade your air conditioning unit (but be sure not to block airflow). A unit operating in the shade uses as much as 10% less electricity than one operating in the sun.
8. Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
9. Properly seal and insulate your doors and windows.
10. Invest in a programmable thermostat to automatically control the temperature based on your lifestyle. Heat or cool your home only when you need it.

## Alternative Cooling Options

Being environmentally conscious does not mean you have to suffer in the heat. If you want to be cool, consider these great green cooling options:

**Plant trees** – properly placed trees in your yard can realize savings of up to 58% on daytime air conditioning.

**Close the curtains** – closing heavy curtains or blinds during the day will help keep the heat out and the cool in. Open them at night to let in those cool night breezes.

**Cool the key rooms** – installing a split ductless air conditioner provides cooling just in the areas you need it most. These systems are less expensive to operate and better for the environment.

**Consider geothermal** – a ground source heat pump (or geothermal system) not only provides great heat for your home, it cools too, keeping you comfortable and eco-friendly.

**Dehumidify** – by installing a dehumidifier you can stay comfortable at a higher temperature.

**Whole house attic fans** – by blowing hot air out of the attic, you cool your home.

## Manage IAQ during the summer even if you don't have AC

In the summer, air is passed through the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) system, cleaning as necessary. Air is then cooled by your AC unit before entering your ductwork.

What if you don't have an air conditioner? Don't fret, you have options! Consider running your furnace fan throughout the summer, replacing its filter monthly or utilize your heat recovery ventilation system to help clean your indoor air. We can help determine other options that might work for your family. Give us a call.

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## Fun *summer activities* that won't break the bank

1. Have a picnic lunch
2. Find a new trail to hike or bike
3. Go to yard sales
4. Organize a softball game with friends
5. Plant a vegetable or flower garden
6. Check out community programs
7. Go fishing
8. Visit the library
9. Plan a day trip to a community pool
10. Have a backyard bbq with friends
11. Plan a scavenger hunt
12. Go to a drive-in movie
13. Volunteer
14. Visit the zoo
15. Go camping

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## Ways to *save money* in a tough economy

1. Car pool
2. Walk instead of drive
3. Pack your lunch
4. Use coupons
5. Organize a clothing swap
6. Check your vehicle's tire pressure
7. Talk to a financial planner
8. Make coffee at home before you head out
9. Consider purchasing used items instead of new
10. Avoid buying individually packed meals or snacks
11. Hang your clothes to dry instead of using your dryer
12. Reduce the extra services on your phone or cable bill
13. Serve dinner on smaller plates to control portion size
14. Grow your own vegetables – healthy and good for the environment!
15. When shopping, look for energy efficient appliances



## We'd love to hear from you!

**Please let us know what you think of our newsletter and what you'd like to see in it.**

We'll try to answer your questions and cover topics of interest to you, our valued customers.

Please contact us at: A Matter of Comfort  
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