



Energy Saver North Carolina and NC Weatherization Assistance Program

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

May 12, 2026





Agenda

1

Energy Saver North Carolina Overview

2

Homeowners Managing Efficiency Savings (HOMES)

3

Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR)

4

Weatherization Assistance Program

Purpose of the Energy Saver North Carolina (ESNC)

Program launched January 16, 2025.

This program helps income-eligible homeowners and renters cover the cost of energy-saving and electrification updates to their homes.

\$208 million dollars in rebates through 2031 or until funds are exhausted.

- **Save Money:** Cut down on utility bills with energy-efficient upgrades.
- **Improve Homes:** Make homes more comfortable and efficient with modern appliances and systems.
- **Clean Energy:** Lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in homes and communities.
- **Economic Development:** Promote the growth of new businesses and create quality jobs for energy contractors and suppliers.



ESNC Program Stakeholder Ecosystem

Here are the key stakeholders who will be involved in the program.



Tribal Governments



Program Implementer



NCDEQ



Community-Based Organizations (CBO)



Contractors



Retailers



Utility Providers



Local Governments



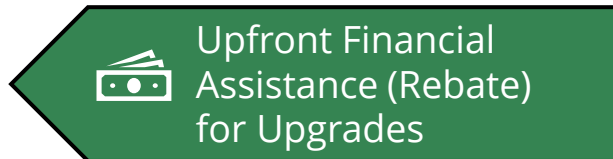
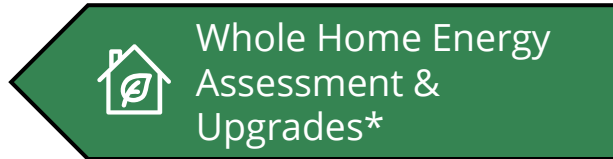
Energy Auditors



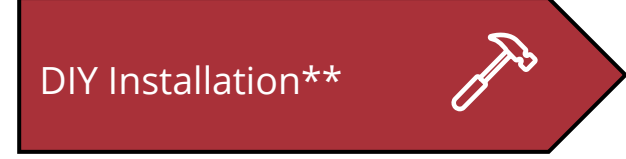
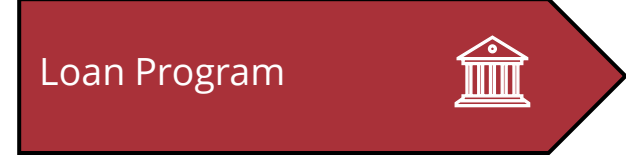
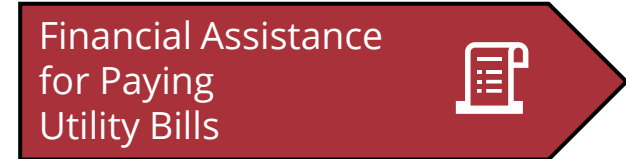
Residents



What ESNC is...



What ESNC is NOT...



*Only required for HOMES program

**DIY unavailable

HOMES - Homeowners Managing Efficiency Savings



Improvements that increase the overall energy efficiency of a home, such as insulation, air sealing, and upgrading heating & cooling systems.



Designed to save households a minimum of 20% energy usage.

Income Eligibility	Modeled Energy Savings	Maximum Rebate Per Household
Household income up to 80% AMI	20% or more	100% of project costs up to \$16,000
Household income between 80% and 150% AMI	20% - 34%	50% of project costs or up to \$2,000
Household income between 80% and 150% AMI	35% or higher	50% of project costs or up to \$4,000

Income eligibility is based on Area Median Income (AMI).
Households with incomes greater than 150% AMI are NOT eligible for this program.

Energy Saver North Carolina Eligibility Requirements

Income Verification

Rebates will be available for low- and moderate-income households based on Area Median Income (AMI).

- EASIEST way to verify income is by providing 1040 tax form.
- Applicants that receive benefits for certain **categorically eligible** federal programs (e.g., LIHEAP, SNAP).
- If the above pathways don't apply, all other ways to verify household's total annual income are listed in the [Income Qualification Checklist](#) on the [ESNC website](#).



HOMES Eligibility Requirements

Utility Data

- Free Home Assessment Required
 - Energy modeling to determine home needs and action plan
 - Applicant needs to upload **12 months of utility bills** for all fuels used in the home (electric, natural gas, propane, LP, etc.).
 - Project(s) must achieve a least **20% modeled energy savings** to be eligible.
- Registered contractor performing assessment will be different from the one delivering the installations.



HOMES Eligible Project Examples

HOMES will need to include a combination of measures installed to reach a minimum of 20% savings to be eligible.

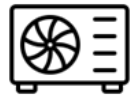
Project Type	Project Example
Whole Home Retrofits	Upgrading insulation, air sealing, duct sealing and repairs, door upgrades, electric panel and wiring upgrades
Heating and Cooling System Upgrades	High Efficiency Heat Pump installation, High Efficiency Air Conditioners
Water Heating Upgrades	Heat Pump Water Heater installation, upgrading from a standard or gas water heater to an energy-efficient one
Smart Controls	Smart Thermostat installation
Envelope Improvements	Weatherization measures like weatherstripping, and caulking

HOMES Requirements

Whole Home Energy Assessment & Expectations

- Energy Saver North Carolina will conduct a free, no-obligation home assessment lasting 1–2 hours, depending on the home's size and accessibility.
- The energy assessor will let the applicant know which areas of their home need to be accessed and will review the findings with them directly. No specific contractors will be recommended to keep the process neutral.
- After the visit, a registered contractor will review the report and work with the applicant to identify upgrade options that match their needs and aim for at least 20% energy savings.

HEAR - Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates



Program designed to help households install new efficient electric equipment.



These upgrades can lower monthly bills while improving comfort and safety.



Instant discount at time of purchase.

Income Eligibility	Lifetime Maximum Rebate Per Dwelling
Household income up to 80% AMI	100% of project costs up to \$14,000
Household income between 80% and 150% AMI	50% of project costs up to \$14,000

Income eligibility is based on Area Median Income (AMI).
Households with incomes greater than 150% AMI are NOT eligible for this program.

HEAR Eligible Projects

Upgrade Type	Qualified Product	Lifetime Maximum Rebate Per Product Category	Eligible for New Construction	Qty Limit
Appliances	ENERGY STAR® certified electric heat pump for space heating*	\$8,000	Yes	1 System
	ENERGY STAR certified electric heat pump water heater*	\$1,750	Yes	1
	ENERGY STAR certified electric heat pump clothes dryer or combo washer/dryer*	\$840	Yes	1
	ENERGY STAR certified electric cooktop, stove or range or an electric oven**	\$840	Yes	1
Building Materials	ENERGY STAR certified insulation, air sealing, and/or ventilation	\$1,600	No	
	Electrical panel improvements***	\$4,000	No	
	Electrical wiring***	\$2,500	No	

* Existing Heat Pump will not be eligible for replacement.

** Rebates are available only when upgrading from a non-electric appliance.

*** Only when required to enable installation of an eligible appliance on the same application.

Households with incomes greater than 150% AMI are NOT eligible for this program.



HOMES and HEAR Project Example

HOMES

38% Modeled Energy Savings

Measure	Cost
Heat Pump for Space Heating/Cooling	\$14,000
Air Sealing/Weatherization	\$1,000
Duct Sealing	\$1,000
Total	\$16,000

Existing Equipment in Home

Propane Furnace

Propane Water Heater

HEAR

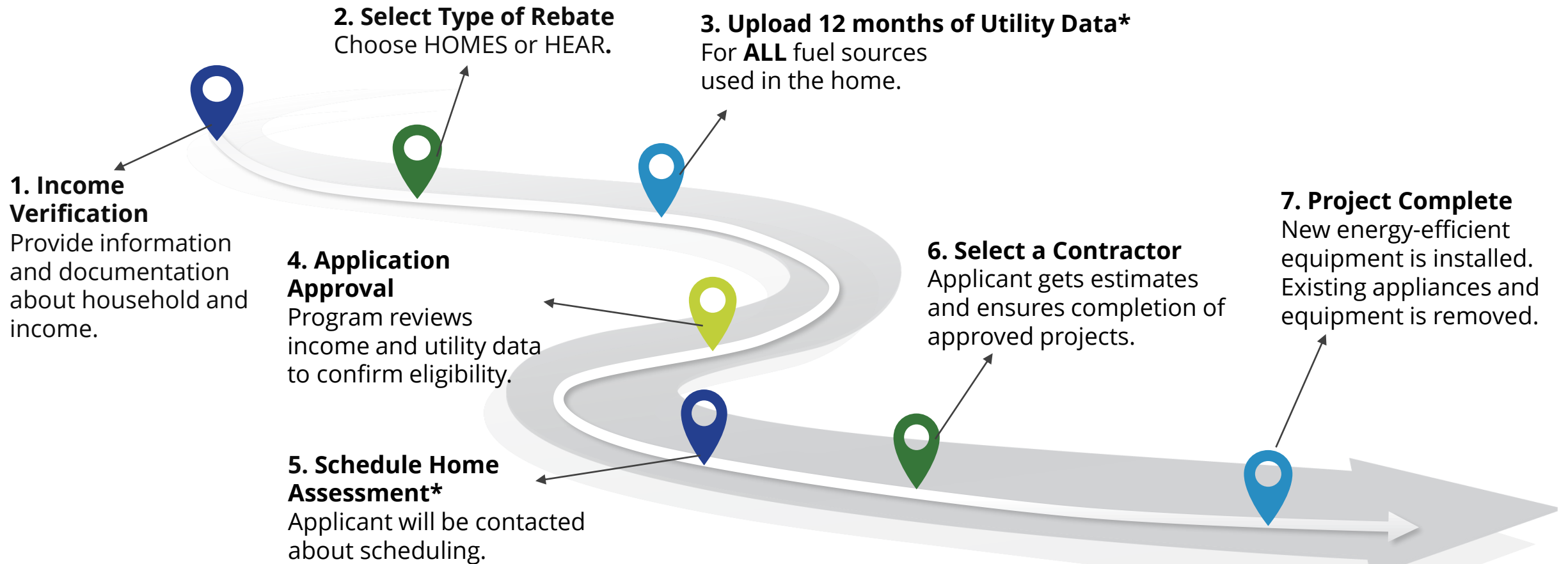
Measure	Cost
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$1,750
Electrical Wiring and Panel Upgrade	\$2,500
Total	\$4,250

HEAR Rebates

- **Maximize Rebates:** Residents participating in HOMES should consider applying for HEAR to maximize rebates.
 - Rebates need to be for different upgrades or equipment types.
- **Lifetime Maximums:** Rebates are limited to the lifetime maximum per household but can be used multiple times up to that maximum.
 - Example: Apply for a heat pump water heater rebate now, including an electrical wiring rebate, and then apply again later for an electric cooktop rebate with an electrical wiring rebate, if the total of the two electrical wiring rebates do not exceed the lifetime maximum of \$2,500.
- **Multifamily Rebates:** Currently, rebates are issued only for single-family dwellings but will open for multifamily (more than one unit under one roof) rebates in the future – likely late-fall 2026. Tenants can still pre-qualify and will be placed on a waitlist until the multifamily rebate process is finalized.

Rebate Journey for Residents

NCDEQ and the Program Implementer will collaborate with CBOs, Utilities and other community partners to engage residents, educate and provide information about the program.



* Step not required for HEAR Rebates

Weatherization Assistance Program

The NC Weatherization Assistance Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). DOE has funded the Weatherization Assistance Program annually since 1976.

This program also includes additional resources – the Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program (HAARP) and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), both of which are state-funded by the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is administered by the State Energy Office in partnership with 19 local weatherization agencies.

Income eligibility at or below 200% federal poverty level.

Priority list determined by:

- elderly persons (*age 60 or more*),
- persons with disabilities,
- a child (*under the age of 6 or expectant mothers*),
- households that have a high energy burden (*over 15% of annual income expended on energy costs*), energy intensity (*energy usage per square foot*), and,
- households that are high residential energy users (*use electric strip heat as the primary heat source*).



Contacts/Resources For Energy Saver NC

Website for Energy Saver NC
energysavernc.org

Customer Inquiry Email
energysavernc@aptim.com

Call Center Information
Toll-free Number: 866-998-8555
Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM EST

Website for Weatherization Assistance Program
[NC WAP](#)



ENERGY SAVER NORTH CAROLINA



Questions?

Thank You!



Energy Saver North Carolina County Expansion Phases

