

Rebates on Renewable Energy

Alternative Energy Technologies Program

For residents, businesses, community and Indigenous governments, and non-profit organizations

The Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA) provides funding for residents and businesses in the Northwest Territories (NWT) to help offset the cost of switching to renewable energy sources and related technologies. This funding is provided in the form of rebates.

Who can apply?

- NWT residents
- Businesses operating in the NWT, including off-grid lodges and camps
- Northwest Territories (NWT) community governments and designated authorities who provide and deliver community government services such as water, sewer and road maintenance services
- NWT Indigenous governments that are not considered community governments
- Non-profit organizations operating in the NWT

What projects are eligible?

- Solar electric (photovoltaic, or PV) systems*
- Wind turbines*
- Solar air- or water-heating systems
- In-stream hydro/micro-hydro projects*
- Wood pellet or cord wood boilers and furnaces
- Electric heating systems (in the South Slave region only)†

The AEA may provide funding for other technologies if you can demonstrate that your project is technically feasible and meets all of the other requirements of this program.

*The AEA is permitted to provide funding for renewable electricity generating projects only in communities that do not use hydroelectricity, or in off-grid locations. Grid-connected renewable electricity generating projects in communities that use hydroelectricity are not eligible.

†Rebates on electric heating systems are available only for businesses, non-profit organizations and community and Indigenous governments in the communities of Enterprise, Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, Hay River and Kát'odeeche. Contact the AEA for more information.

What funding is available?

Funding is available in the form of a rebate once your project is complete and operational.

The rebate amount you receive will be the lower of:

- 50% of the total eligible costs of the project
- A calculation based on the amount of money and greenhouses gases that your project will save¹ *(for projects other than solar photovoltaic systems)*
- *(For solar photovoltaic projects only)* A calculation of \$4.00 per watt that the system can produce

Residents and home-based businesses²

The maximum you can receive for a project is \$30,000 for biomass-fueled heating systems (such as wood-pellet boilers) and \$20,000 for all other projects (such as solar photovoltaic systems).

Businesses, community and Indigenous governments, and non-profits

The maximum you can receive for a project is \$50,000.

What costs are covered?

- Renewable energy systems and all materials required for installing your system
- Shipping
- Inverters and electrical control systems
- Batteries for stand-alone applications and for grid-tied systems with battery back-up
- Integrated equipment for storing, handling or feeding wood pellets or other biofuels
- Monitoring equipment
- Installation

What costs are not covered?

- Any costs associated with a grid-connected renewable electricity generating system in a community that uses hydroelectricity
- Any costs associated with a portable or temporary solar photovoltaic system (such as a packable system or a system on an RV)
- Removing an existing system
- Conventional systems used for backup heat or power generation
- Structural components of a building
- Spare parts to support a system

¹ The savings calculation is based on the sum of 3 times the annual energy savings (in dollars), plus \$300 per tonne of lifetime greenhouse gas emissions avoided. For example, if your project will save you \$1,000 a year in energy costs and will save 100 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over its lifespan, your savings calculation would be $(3 \times \$1,000) + (\$300/\text{tonne} \times 100 \text{ tonnes}) = \$33,000$.

² For the purposes of determining a maximum rebate, a business based in a home is considered to be on a residential property. To be eligible for a maximum rebate of \$50,000, a business must be based on a property that is primarily used for commercial purposes.

- Operations and maintenance
- Replacing existing batteries or other separate components of a system
- GST

What do I need to do to receive a rebate?

1. Contact the AEA to confirm your project is eligible for a rebate.
2. Obtain quotes from contractors and suppliers for completing your project.
3. Complete your application form and submit it, along with a quote from your contractor or supplier, to the AEA for pre-approval.
4. Complete the installation of your system within 4 months of receiving pre-approval. If you need to request an extension, submit it to the AEA before the 4-month deadline.
5. Submit the following to the AEA within 1 month of completing your project:
 - a. Final invoices and/or receipts showing your system is paid-for in full
 - b. Photos showing the system has been installed (a list of required photos is listed on the application form)
6. Receive a rebate from the AEA.

You should submit your application before installing your system to get pre-approval for your rebate. This pre-approval means that funding will be set aside for your project regardless of how many other applications are received.

Submit your application as soon as possible. Each year, the Arctic Energy Alliance receives a set amount of funding from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada for this program. This funding will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until all funding has been allocated. It is possible for funding to be fully allocated before the end of the year.

Other important information

How are applications evaluated?

All applications are processed in the order they are received by the AEA. An application is considered received by the AEA when it is completed correctly and contains all supporting documents.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Technical feasibility,
- Potential energy savings, and
- Environmental benefits, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

For community and Indigenous governments, and non-profits, consideration may be given to:

- Renewable energy projects proposed in communities that do not use hydroelectricity
- Renewable energy systems that provide a clear and useful function on a long-term seasonal or year-round basis



- Renewable energy systems that have comparatively lower annual operations and maintenance costs than equivalent conventional energy systems

The Executive Director of the Arctic Energy Alliance reserves the right to make a final decision on all rebate applications.

What are my responsibilities?

- Your system must be installed on a building, property or other asset in the Northwest Territories and must reduce the use of fossil fuels.
- You must have legal right of access to the building, property or asset where your system is being installed and must be able to provide proof of this to the AEA upon request.
- You are responsible for obtaining all necessary approvals, permits and licences for your project, including electrical permits for any renewable electricity system.
- If you are installing a grid-connected renewable electricity system, you must send the AEA proof that your electrical supply utility has approved your project (either the Northwest Territories Power Corporation or Naka Power, depending on your community). The AEA will not consider a grid-tied electrical system operational until it has been approved by the electrical supply utility and connected to the grid.
- By submitting an application, you commit to setting up equipment to monitor the energy output of your renewable energy system and to collect data for at least 12 months after your system is operational. You also commit to sharing this data with the AEA.

What are the AEA's responsibilities?

The AEA will:

- Provide rebate funding to you as per your pre-approval.
- Report details of your project to the Government of the Northwest Territories (such as your name, the amount of your rebate, your project name and description, the total project cost, and the energy and greenhouse-gas savings).

How do I choose and install eligible equipment?

- Only new equipment is eligible for a rebate.
- To be eligible, all equipment must be certified by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or the Underwriters Laboratory of Canada (ULC), or approved by an appropriate testing agency.

What else do I need to know about funding?

The rebate amount you receive will be based on your actual costs, as shown by the invoices and receipts you submit to the Arctic Energy Alliance. This may be different from the amount you were pre-approved for.

Rebates for costs higher than the pre-approved amount are not guaranteed and are dependent on the funding available to the Arctic Energy Alliance.



The AEA is setting aside 50% of its rebate budget for this program for solar photovoltaic systems and the remaining 50% for other renewable energy projects. This is to help ensure that we have enough available funding to provide rebates for these other projects. We may change these percentages without notice based on the applications we receive and the amount of funding we have available.

To be eligible to receive rebate funding under this program, you cannot receive funding for the same project under any of the following:

- Another program of the Arctic Energy Alliance
- A program of the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure

To be eligible to receive rebate funding under this program, you likely cannot receive funding for the same project under any of the following (contact the AEA and the other funder for details):

- A program that receives funding from the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund
- The green infrastructure funding stream under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program
- The Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund
- The clean technology funding stream through the Innovation and Skills Plan

However, you can apply for funding from other programs for items not covered by this rebate program, as long as the total value of your funding does not exceed 100% of the cost.

This program is made possible by financial contributions from the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

For more information, contact:

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