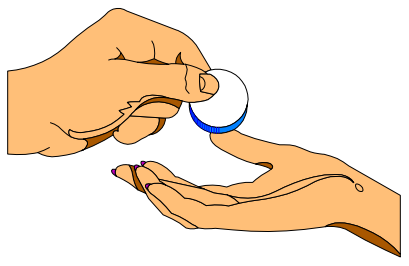


## Tax credits make home improvements worth it

The Energy Policy Act of 2005, among its many provisions, offers tax credits to consumers and businesses that improve the energy efficiency of homes and workplaces.



For homeowners, this means you can not only save money on your energy bill by making an energy-efficient home improvements this year, you can also receive a tax credit for it.

An overall cap of \$500 is set for eligible improvements. Follow this guide to savings and tax credits.

Homeowners are eligible for tax credits:

- Up to \$500 for 10 percent of the cost of energy-efficient exterior doors, insulation, duct sealing or Energy Star-certified pigmented metal roofs.
- Up to \$200 for 10 percent of the cost of Energy Star-certified windows or skylights.
- Up to \$300 for air conditioners meeting certain SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) ratings.

Up to \$300 for a highly energy-efficient heat pump, water heater or furnace.

In addition, the act offers tax credits for increasing solar power. A credit of up to 30 percent of the cost of solar water heaters (not for swimming pools or hot tubs) or photovoltaic units is offered, not to exceed \$2,000. A separate credit is available for each, for a possible credit of \$4,000.

Improvements must be made in 2006 or 2007 to qualify, unless they are extended by legislation.

### LINKS for more information:

Visit [www.energy.gov/taxbreaks](http://www.energy.gov/taxbreaks) for more information on how to identify eligible energy improvements.

NC details: <http://www.dorncc.com/practitioner/individual/directives/renewableenergyguidelines.html>

All states info: The Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency ([DSIRE](http://www.dsireusa.org/)) is a free, comprehensive, user-friendly source of information on state, local, utility and selected federal incentives that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. <http://www.dsireusa.org/>

The NC Solar Center has a wealth of information: <http://www.ncsc.ncsu.edu>

