

## Top 11 great grants, rebates and exemptions

As seen in *The Open House*, February 9, 2007

1	<p><b>Federal ecoENERGY Efficiency Initiative</b> Natural Resources Canada For more information go to <a href="http://ecoenergy-ecoenergie.gc.ca/index-eng.htm">http://ecoenergy-ecoenergie.gc.ca/index-eng.htm</a>.</p>	<p>A new program that provides \$300 million across Canada for the next four years for homeowners and smaller businesses to retrofit or build new energy efficient homes and buildings. Homeowners can claim up to \$5,000 for renovations to improve their home's energy efficiency.</p>
2	<p><b>Property Transfer Tax (PTT) First Time Home Buyers' Program Exemption</b> BC Ministry of Small Business and Revenue For information go to <a href="http://www.rev.gov.bc.ca/rpt/">www.rev.gov.bc.ca/rpt/</a> or phone the provincial Property Taxation Branch at 250.387.0604.</p>	<p>Exempts qualified first-time buyers from paying the Property Transfer Tax which is 1% of the first \$200,000 of market value and 2% on the remainder on homes priced up to \$375,000 in the GVRD, FVRD and CRD and up to \$265,000 elsewhere.</p>
3	<p><b>BC Home Owner Grant</b> BC Ministry of Small Business and Revenue For information go to <a href="http://www.rev.gov.bc.ca/hog/">www.rev.gov.bc.ca/hog/</a> or contact your local government's tax office.</p>	<p>Reduces property taxes by up to \$570 on properties with an assessed value up to \$780,000 and continues on a sliding scale up \$894,000. Provides an additional \$275 for a total of \$845 for seniors, veterans and the disabled.</p>
4	<p><b>PST Relief Grant Program</b> BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources For information go to <a href="http://www.em.gov.bc.ca/alternativeenergy/EnergyEfficiency/PST_Exemption.htm">www.em.gov.bc.ca/alternativeenergy/EnergyEfficiency/PST_Exemption.htm</a></p>	<p>Exempt energy efficient materials including double-glazed windows, insulation, draft reducing materials, furnaces, boilers, heat pumps and related from the PST.</p>
5	<p><b>PST Relief Grant Program</b> BC Homeowner Protection Office For more information go to <a href="http://www.hpo.bc.ca/PST/index.htm">www.hpo.bc.ca/PST/index.htm</a> or phone 604.646.7069</p>	<p>Provides grant assistance to owners of leaky homes including single detached, duplexes, strata councils, and housing co-op boards, who have repaired damage caused by premature building envelope failure.</p>
6	<p><b>Energy Savings Plan (ESP)</b> BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources For information go to <a href="http://www.saveenergynow.ca/programs/sdr">www.saveenergynow.ca/programs/sdr</a> or phone 1.877.727.2830, Program deadline is March 31, 2007</p>	<p>Provides grants of up to \$2,500 for energy efficient upgrades to owners of pre-1990 single family, row and town houses in pilot communities including: Bowen Island, Burnaby, North Vancouver City, Port Moody, Squamish, Vancouver and Saltspring Island.</p>
7	<p><b>GST on New Home Rebate</b> Canada Revenue Agency For information go to <a href="http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca">www.cra-arc.gc.ca</a> and in the search box enter "GST new housing rebate".</p>	<p>Lets eligible buyers of new homes with a market value of less than \$450,000 purchased from a builder claim a rebate of up to \$7,560.</p>
8	<p><b>CMHC Grants – includes Energy Efficient Housing Mortgage Loan Insurance Premium Refunds and Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) Grants</b> For information on Mortgage Loan Insurance Premium Refunds go to <a href="http://www.cmhc.ca/en/co/moloin/moloin_008.cfm#reno">www.cmhc.ca/en/co/moloin/moloin_008.cfm#reno</a>. For information on RRAP go to <a href="http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/prfinas/prfinas_001.cfm">www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/prfinas/prfinas_001.cfm</a>.</p>	<p>Provides home buyers with CMHC mortgage insurance a 10% premium refund (worth hundreds of dollars) when buyers purchase an energy efficient home or make energy savings renovations. RRAP offers financial assistance to low-income households who own and occupy substandard housing to enable them to repair their dwellings to a minimum level of health and safety. For more information on RRAP see the August 25, 2006 issue of <i>The Open House</i>.</p>

9	<p><b>Terasen Gas ENERGY STAR Qualified Heating System Upgrade</b>  For information go to  <a href="http://www.teresengas.com/Promotions/Current+Promotions/EnergyStarHeating.htm">www.teresengas.com/Promotions/Current+Promotions/EnergyStarHeating.htm</a> or phone  604.697.5700.</p>	Provides coupons and rebates of up to \$1,000 towards the purchase of a new ENERGY STAR qualified gas heating system as well as gas bill credits.
10	<p><b>BC Hydro Fridge Buy-Back Program</b>  For information go to  <a href="http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/fridge/fridge8437.html">www.bchydro.com/powersmart/fridge/fridge8437.html</a> For free pick up of your refrigerator(s) phone  604.881.HELP (4357).</p>	Rebates BC Hydro customers \$30 to turn in their old, inefficient, second refrigerator. Fridges must measure between 10-24 cubic feet and still work. Will pick up a maximum of two refrigerators.
11	<p><b>BC Hydro Windows Rebate Program</b>  For more information go to  <a href="http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/reno/reno8621.html">www.bchydro.com/powersmart/reno/reno8621.html</a></p>	Customers who buy and install ENERGY STAR approved windows by February 28, 2007 may be eligible for a rebate of \$2.00 per square foot of window on their BC Hydro heating bill.