

Claim the Residential Energy Credit Before it is Too Late!

[KB Website](#)

[Publications](#)

[Community Involvement](#)

[Newsletter](#)

By: Dan Burzynski



Perhaps one of the easiest and most accessible tax credits in the past few years has been the non-business (residential) energy credit. Anyone, regardless of income, may be eligible for a credit of 10% of the cost of some very basic energy-efficient home improvements. Adding insulation or replacing windows or exterior doors are relatively inexpensive and simple (perhaps even do-it-yourself) projects that can directly cut your taxes. Larger efficiency improvements like new furnaces, water heaters, roofing, or central air conditioning units may also qualify. If you are considering home improvements on your main home, you may want to schedule them before December 31, 2011 so that you can receive the credit when you file your 2011 taxes.

Not all improvements qualify, and there is a lifetime credit limit of \$500 (with no more than \$200 due to windows). If you claimed the credit in the past, you may no longer be able to take additional credit this year. If you haven't received the energy credit yet, this may be your last chance. Though the credit has been extended in the past when it was set to expire, there is little movement right now in Congress to extend it beyond 2011. Most observers expect it to expire. For more information about the credit, go to EnergyStar.gov.