

# Rebates help members improve energy efficiency



Brian D’Haeze knew his central air conditioning unit was old and inefficient, so he jumped at the chance to earn a rebate for replacing it with a new energy-efficient model.

“We’ve always tried to be more energy efficient, and we were ready to do some upgrades,” D’Haeze said. “When we heard about the program, we decided to call to learn more about the rebates.”

D’Haeze is referring to the Home program, which is offering rebates to Rock Energy Cooperative members who live in Illinois when they make specific energy-efficiency improvements to their homes. The program is funded by a \$1.5 million federal grant with \$27,132 set aside for Rock Energy members.

Members so far have received rebates of \$1,500 for installing geothermal heat pumps, \$700 for furnaces, \$700 for central air, and \$500 for insulation, said Dale Kessinger, energy services manager. Many more eligible energy efficiency projects are under way and will receive rebates in the coming weeks.

D’Haeze said the process was simple. He called Rock Energy Cooperative to schedule a \$25 energy assessment, which is required to qualify for the rebates. Energy assessor Dale Oas visited D’Haeze’s Roscoe home and recommended ways that the family could save energy and money.

Replacing the 22-year-old central air unit was at the top of Oas’s list of recommendations. He also suggested replacing the furnace, caulking around windows, adding insulation, and installing energy-saving window film. He usually advises people to replace incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, but the D’Haezes already had made the switch.

“If you change all the bulbs in your house to CFLs, you can cut \$6 to \$10 off your energy bill every month,” Oas said.



Energy assessor Dale Oas, left, recommends that Brian D’Haeze replace his home’s central air conditioning unit with a new, energy-efficient model.

After the energy assessment, members can decide what improvements they want to make and obtain estimates. A rebate check will be issued after the work is completed for upgrades that meet the requirements.

Kessinger said he hopes more members will take advantage of the program. In addition to qualifying for rebates, they also will learn how to make their home more energy efficient and save money in the long run.

If you have questions about the program, call Rock Energy at (866) 752-4550 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. You also can visit [www.rock.coop](http://www.rock.coop) and click on the Home logo.

## How much are the rebates?\*

Geothermal heat pumps	\$1,500
Air-source heat pumps	\$1,000
Central air conditioning	\$350
Natural gas or LP furnace	\$350
Heat pump water heater	\$250
Insulation/air sealing	\$500 maximum, 30% of project cost

\*Rebates will be approved for only one piece of heating or cooling equipment

## How does the program work?

- Call Rock Energy at (866) 752-4550 to arrange an energy assessment, which is required to qualify for the rebates. Appointments will be scheduled between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. A \$25 fee will be collected at the time of the in-home assessment.
- You will receive recommendations about how to improve your home’s energy efficiency, performance, and comfort.
- Decide what work will be completed and submit a proposal form and cost estimate to us. We will return a signed copy, stating that funds have been set aside for you.
- Work must be completed within 60 days.
- Send us a completion form with copies of your receipts.
- We will issue a check to you.



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