

2011 Energy Tax Credits:

The US Federal Government has extended some of the Federal tax credits for improved efficiency for homeowners. For non-geothermal upgrades, the maximum amount of tax credit that can be claimed for 2011 is \$500.00. (This is down from \$1500.00 in 2010). In addition, the US Federal Government is making the tax incentive claim process retroactive back to 12/31/2005. This means that homeowners that have claimed at least \$500 in energy-efficiency tax credits between 2006 and 2010 can't do so in 2011.

Here is the breakdown of 2011 Energy Efficiency Tax Credits as it relates to individual heating & cooling items:

Central air conditioner (\$300 Tax Credit): must be 16-SEER or greater and have an EER of at least 13.

Electric heat pump (\$300 Tax Credit): must have at least an HSPF of 9, SEER of 16, and EER of 13

Furnaces (\$150 Tax Credit): must have at least a 95% AFUE (*oil furnaces and boilers returned to the single furnace category at 95% AFUE)

Advanced main air circulating fan (\$50 Tax Credit): must utilize less than 2% of a furnace's total energy consumption

Biomass fuel stove (\$300 Tax Credit): must have thermal efficiency rating of at least 75 percent (*no longer specifies using lower heating value)

Remember that the maximum tax credit that can be claimed from any combination of these efficiency upgrades is \$500 for the 2011 tax year.