

Rationale for extending ecoENERGY Retrofit - Homes incentive program

1. EcoENERGY Retrofit - Homes is a successful energy-efficiency program...

“The ecoENERGY Retrofit - Homes program is meeting the expectations of Canadians and providing them with a positive service that helps move the country’s existing housing stock towards greater energy-efficiency.”¹

More than 230,000 homeowners have undertaken measures to improve the energy-efficiency of their houses, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 730,000 tonnes per annum.² *That’s enough CO₂ to fill the Rogers Centre 250 times!*

... but more work needs to be done

Participation to date represents only about 6 per cent of existing residential stock.³

2. Incentives drive participation

Numbers of houses receiving energy ratings jumped dramatically when incentives were introduced in 2003 under EnerGuide for Houses program and have increased steadily since 2007 under ecoENERGY Retrofit - Homes program (Fig. 1).

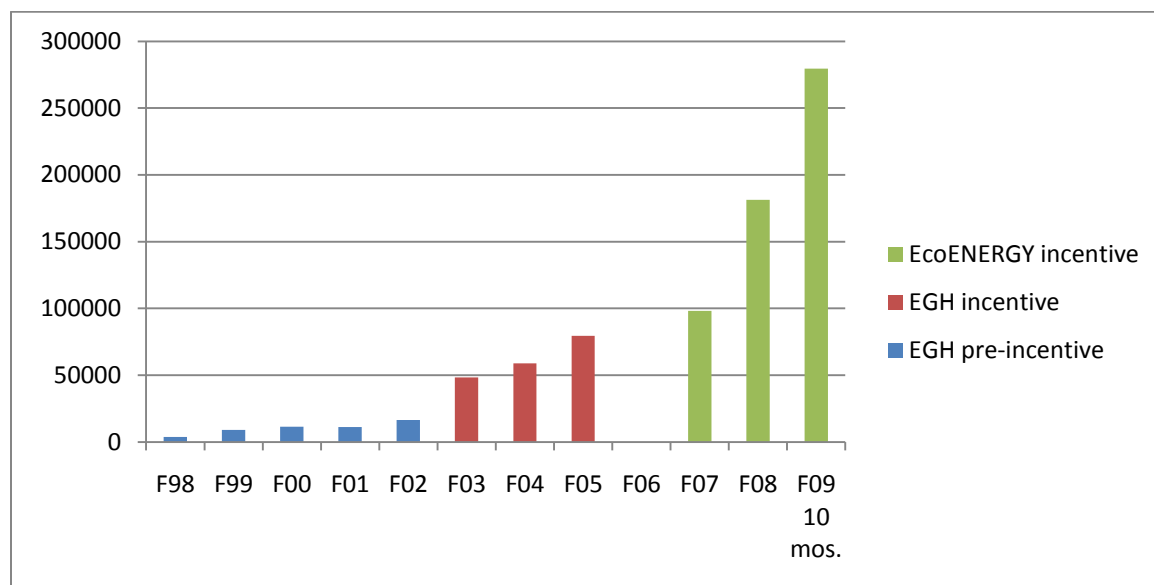


Fig. 1 Number of homeowners participating in EGH / ecoENERGY Retrofit fiscal years 1998 – 2009. (no program in fiscal year 2006)

¹ ecoENERGY Retrofit - 2007-2008 Quality Assurance Homeowner Verification. Natural Resources Canada.

² As of January 26, 2010. Participants have 18 months to complete retrofits, so this number will rise.

³ As of January 26, 2010. 558,000 participants out of 8.9 million single family homes.

3. Incentives lead to deeper retrofits⁴

Grants act as a catalyst for homeowners to increase the level of energy-efficiency upgrades over their original plans.

44 per cent of participants plan on completing all suggested retrofits.

Because homeowners retain key information, it is expected that many homeowners will undergo further retrofits, even after their 18-month grant period expires.

4. Incentives lead to local economic stimulation

Each dollar of federal grants generates roughly \$6 in local spending.

To date, the program has generated more than \$1.78 billion in local spending.

Jobs created or maintained: 32,000 person/years

5. Incentives are cost-effective

An analysis of the cost-effectiveness of various government incentive programs, by C.D. Howe Institute, indicated that "...energy retrofits are highly cost-effective incentive programs for GHG mitigation..."⁵

⁴ Natural Resources Canada. Op cit.

⁵ "Going Green for Less: Cost-Effective Alternate Energy Sources." C.D. Howe Institute Commentary No. 282, February 2009, p. 14.