

## Important changes to the *Performance Plus* Rebate Program for New Home construction in Nova Scotia



*Performance Plus* has been a highly successful program, helping more than 1,400 Nova Scotians build more energy efficiency new homes. Efficiency Nova Scotia will be continuing the program this year, with some modifications. These changes come into effect on January 15, 2012, or until the number of entrants in the current program reaches 1,500, whichever occurs first. As of Jan 4, 2012, there were approximately 1,400 applicants.

Most notably, they will be providing rebates based solely on the final EnerGuide rating. There will no longer be any additional rebates for specific items such as heat pumps, solar hot water\*, drain water heat recovery, etc. The rebates are as follows:

Final EnerGuide Rating	Efficiency Nova Scotia Rebate
83 or 84	\$3000
85, 86 or 87	\$5000
88 or higher	\$7000

\* There is an Efficiency NS solar rebate of \$1,250 that is available outside of the Performance Plus program. Contact Sustainable Housing for more information.

In addition, there have been some modifications to the eligibility requirements for the rebates. The new/amended minimum qualification criteria are as follows:

- 1.** Electric baseboards cannot be the primary heating system. In electrically heated homes, there are two different ways to ensure this criterion is met:
  - a) The house can have a central warm air or hot water baseboard distribution system, or
  - b) For homes with ductless mini-split heat pumps but no central distribution system, and where electric baseboards are only supplementary, they will allow the home to access rebates as long as the heat pump(s) are sized to provide at least two-thirds of the home's annual space heating requirement.

Please note that ETS (electric thermal storage) room units are considered the same as electric baseboards, thus a home with electric baseboards and/or ETS room units (but no central distribution system) are also not eligible.

- 2.** Basements must be insulated to at least the minimum standard required by the Nova Scotia Building Code regardless of the home's EnerGuide score.
- 3.** The house must be registered in Performance Plus no more than 30 days after obtaining the building permit.
- 4.** The house must be built and have final tests completed within 12 months of the registration date.

For more information, please contact Sustainable Housing at 1-877-722-2842, or via e-mail at [info@sustainablehousing.ca](mailto:info@sustainablehousing.ca).