

Smart Energy Existing Homes Program



Program Overview

The Smart Energy Existing Homes Program is an integral part of Santee Cooper's overall efforts to Reduce the Use of electricity. The Program offers home energy evaluations and financial assistance for energy efficiency improvements that are designed to improve the affordability of your home year-round.

Eligibility Requirements

The Smart Energy Existing Homes Program is available to Santee Cooper residential customers who own a home that meets the following requirements:

- Your home must be separately metered and receive electrical service from Santee Cooper.
- Your home must be single-family or a unit in a multi-family building that has its own heating, cooling, and hot water systems, separate from other units.
- Your home must be at least five years old.
- Your home must be all electric, excluding hybrid heat pumps and gas fireplaces.



Financial Assistance

Santee Cooper provides rebates and low-interest financing for qualifying energy efficiency improvements. The table below outlines the rebates currently available based on the participation pathway you select.

Eligible Measures	Requirements	Rebate Amount
Ceiling Insulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing ceiling insulation must be \leq R-19 • Ceiling insulation must be increased to at least R-38 	\$6 per 100 sq ft
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing ceiling insulation must be \leq R-11 • Ceiling insulation must be increased to at least R-38 	\$13 per 100 sq ft
Air Infiltration Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home envelope leakage must be reduced by at least 10%. • Air infiltration improvement requires test-in value \geq 8 ACH₅₀ 	\$15 per 100 CFM ₅₀
Heat Pump	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum system efficiency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Split system of \geq 15 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF or * Packaged system of \geq 14 SEER, 12 EER, 8 HSPF • Unit \leq 65,000 Btu/h (5.4 tons) • Meet requirements as outlined on Quality Installation Form 	\$50 per ½ ton
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum system efficiency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Split system of \geq 17 SEER, 12.5 EER, 9.0 HSPF or * ENERGY STAR® qualified Geothermal system • Unit \leq 65,000 Btu/h (5.4 tons) • Meet requirements as outlined on Quality Installation Form 	\$100 per ½ ton
Duct Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 20% total CFM duct leakage • Meet requirements as outlined on Duct Improvement Form 	\$75 per 25 CFM ₂₅
Heat Pump Tune-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santee Cooper Trade Ally's service technician must perform and provide documentation of services as outlined on Tune-up Form 	\$50
Heat Pump Water Heater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENERGY STAR® qualified • System must be installed in unconditioned attached space 	\$400
Solar Water Heater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRCC OG-300 certified • The System collector(s) must have a ten-year warranty. • System installation must maximize available solar resource, with no shading over the collector between 9 AM and 3 PM. • System must have tilt \leq 55° and azimuth angle \leq 65° • System must be in compliance with all applicable codes and standards and must have all necessary permits. • Systems that heat pools or hot tubs separate from the property's main water heating system are not eligible for this incentive. 	\$700
Smart Energy Existing Home Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install three or more qualifying measures. Qualifying measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ceiling Insulation * Air Infiltration Improvement * Heat Pump with Quality Installation * Duct Improvement * Heat Pump Water Heater * Solar Water Heater • All three measures installation completed in 60 days period 	\$200

How to Participate

To confirm availability of equipment rebates or schedule a time for an Energy Advisor to conduct a home energy evaluation:

- Visit your local Santee Cooper Retail Office
- E-mail us at energy.advisor@santecooper.com, or
- Contact us at (843) 347-3399 ext. 3910 (Horry and Georgetown) or (843) 761-8000 ext 3910 (Berkeley).

After the evaluation, the Energy Advisor will recommend improvements that will provide the greatest potential energy savings for your home and help identify the financial assistance option best for you. For more information on how the program works refer to "What to Expect."

A Santee Cooper Energy Advisor Can Help You to Determine the Best Improvements for Your Home.

What to Expect

Santee Cooper's Smart Energy Existing Homes Program provides a home energy evaluation to help you identify comprehensive energy efficiency improvements for your home. Participation is easy. The steps below provide an overview of what to expect at each stage of the program.

NOTE: Energy evaluation not required for ceiling insulation, heat pump tune-up, or water heater rebates. Customers pursuing these rebates may skip to Step 3.

Step 1: Schedule an Energy Evaluation

Visit your local Santee Cooper Retail Office, e-mail us at: energy.advisor@santecooper.com or contact us at (843) 347-3399 ext. 3910 (Horry and Georgetown) or (843) 761-8000 ext 3910 (Berkeley) to schedule a time for an Energy Advisor to visit your home and conduct an energy evaluation.

Step 2: Complete the Energy Evaluation

When the Energy Advisor arrives, you will be presented with a Homeowner Participation Agreement that permits Santee Cooper to conduct a home energy evaluation. The Energy Advisor will be authorized to conduct the evaluation once the agreement is completed. Evaluations typically last no more than one hour and include a consultation which includes a visual inspection of the conditioned space, attic, crawl space, exterior of the home, and appliances, as well as a series of diagnostic tests. After the evaluation, your Energy Advisor will provide you with a list of recommended energy efficiency improvements.

Step 3: Select Upgrades and Financial Assistance

After reviewing the list of recommended improvements, your Energy Advisor will discuss the financial assistance options provided by Santee Cooper to help you pay for the energy efficiency improvements. There are two options available to homeowners who are residential customers of Santee Cooper:

- Rebates for eligible energy efficiency improvements.
- Low-interest financing for eligible energy efficiency improvements, if you qualify.

There is no obligation to homeowners who receive evaluations. Homeowners may choose whether or not to make the improvements needed to qualify for the financial assistance. It's entirely up to you.

Step 4: Make Upgrades and Submit Applications

After selecting the improvements you plan to make, we encourage you to obtain quotes and references from a number of Santee Cooper Residential Trade Allies who can make the energy efficiency improvements to your home. Once the upgrades are complete, your Santee Cooper Residential Trade Ally will assist you in completing a Smart Energy Existing Homes Rebate Application, which you will submit along with necessary documentation to your Energy Advisor.

Step 5: Schedule Final Inspection

After receiving your application, your Energy Advisor will schedule a final inspection to inspect your home and conduct performance testing, as needed, to verify the work has been completed and meets the program's requirements, and to ensure your satisfaction with the improvements and the program.

Step 6: Receive Rebate or Loan

You will receive your rebate within eight weeks after successful completion of the final inspection by a Santee Cooper Energy Advisor.



FAQ's

What is the Santee Cooper Smart Energy Existing Homes Program?

The Smart Energy Existing Homes Program was developed by Santee Cooper to help our residential customers Reduce the Use of electricity. It offers evaluations to assess a home's energy efficiency and identify cost-effective improvement measures to reduce electric bills.

Why Participate in the Program?

Making your home more energy-efficient can help to reduce your energy bills and improve your home's comfort year-round. By participating in the program, you can receive a detailed energy evaluation report, are eligible to apply for a rebate(s) and may apply for low-interest financing for energy efficiency improvements.

What are the Most Common Energy-Efficiency Improvements?

There are many different types of improvements you can make to improve the efficiency of your home. Some are simple things you can do yourself. Others require a qualified professional. A Santee Cooper Energy Advisor can help you determine which improvements have the most energy saving potential for your home.

The following are some of the most common energy efficiency improvements:

- Sealing duct work: Many homes have leaky duct work and poor airflow, resulting in stuffy, humid, or otherwise uncomfortable rooms. Sealing your home's ducts and balancing the duct system to optimize airflow to all rooms can help improve your comfort and the ability of your HVAC system to work efficiently.
- Improving heating and cooling systems: Proper functioning of the home's HVAC system is a key component in a home's energy efficiency. Generally, as much as half of the energy used in the home goes to heating and cooling¹. If your system is not working to heat and cool your home efficiently, you could spend more money than you should and still not be comfortable.
¹<http://energy.gov/public-services/homes/heating-cooling>

How Much Will the Improvements Cost?

The cost of energy efficiency upgrades varies by the type of improvement being made and the Santee Cooper Residential Trade Ally fees. Your Energy Advisor can help you determine solutions that will help you achieve the most energy savings and will direct you to the rebates and low-interest financing that Santee Cooper offers to help offset the cost of qualified improvement.

Who Can Perform the Work?

Santee Cooper will only pay rebates or provide financing for improvements that are made by Santee Cooper Residential Trade Allies. These contractors have committed to maintaining the necessary state licenses, insurance and appropriate certifications. Visit www.REDUCETHEUSE.com for a list of Santee Cooper Residential Trade Allies.

Can I Receive Multiple Rebates?

You may receive multiple rebates for more than one installation of the same "type" of measure. As an example, a home may have two heat pumps. However, equipment rebates are limited to a maximum of two rebates per home.

Can I Receive a Rebate and a Loan?

Qualified homeowners may receive a rebate and a low-interest loan for the same improvements.

Who Can Apply for Rebates?

You are eligible to apply, if:

- you receive electric service from Santee Cooper,
- your home is all-electric except for a hybrid heat pump or gas fireplace,
- your home is at least five years old, and
- your is single-family construction or a unit in a multi-family building that has its own heating, cooling, and hot water systems, separate from other units.

What Support Can I Expect From Santee Cooper?

Santee Cooper's Energy Advisors will provide you with support – from submitting your initial application to the receipt of your rebate and/or loan. We are dedicated to ensuring that your experience in the Smart Energy Existing Homes Program is positive and beneficial.

When Will I Receive My Rebate Check?

Your rebate check will be mailed directly to you approximately eight weeks after your Energy Advisor completes the final inspection and determines that your home meets the program's requirements.

