

# Florence County Rebate Program | Home Improvement – up to \$1,000

County Council Resolution No. 11-2008/09

In addition to the Florence County hybrid rebate program, limited home improvements may also qualify for rebates from the County. This program focuses on power generation (solar and wind), primary heat source replacement from wood burning systems and green construction projects that meet LEED or EarthCraft certifications. The following procedures are meant to guide homeowners in obtaining a rebate on qualifying upgrades. Any questions regarding the rebate may be directed to the Florence County Planning Department at 843 676-8600 or via e-mail to Scott Park, [spark@florenceco.org](mailto:spark@florenceco.org).

## General Eligibility Requirements:

- The purchaser must live in Florence County;
- The purchase(s) must be conducted between July 1, 2009 and the end of the program;
- A copy of the proof of sale must be submitted and verified;
- The purchaser completes this application legibly;
- The purchaser meets all these requirements and applies for this rebate before all funds are expended;
- The purchaser must provide Florence County with all requested information and allow inspections of the installed equipment, including a pre-installation inspection for heating system improvements.

## Rebate Requirements:

- The rebate is 25% of cash spent, up to \$1,000, on purchase and installation of qualifying new equipment;
- A minimum of \$1,000 must be spent (for a \$250 rebate) on eligible installations;
- The rebate may be earned once per resident's household;
- Improvements must advance power, heat, or energy conservation as described below:
  - Power:** Solar or wind power equipment that provides 100% of the building's energy requirements for at least 300 days of the year,
  - Heat:** New equipment upgrades of gas or electric heat for homes with wood burning as an existing primary heat source (to be verified with a pre-inspection),
  - Green Construction:** New construction that meets at least the certified level of LEED or EarthCraft construction or equivalent.

## 1. Who can apply?

This is a first-come, first-served program. Any Florence County resident who meets the eligibility criteria of the Program can apply for a rebate. The maximum rebate per owner's household is \$1,000 until a total of \$20,000 is expended by the Program in fiscal year 2010.

## 2. How do I apply?

- Schedule a pre-inspection to apply for a primary heat improvement rebate;
- Call (843) 676-8600 and request an application form be mailed or e-mailed to you;
- Visit the County Planning Office at 518 South Irby Street, Florence – (entrance to the rear of the building).
- Find the application online at [www.florenceco.org/planning](http://www.florenceco.org/planning)
- Request an application by e-mail to Ms. Renee Proctor, [rproctor@florenceco.org](mailto:rproctor@florenceco.org)

**3. What type of equipment is eligible for the rebate?**

Only new equipment meeting the requirements above qualifies for this rebate.

**4. Why has Florence County proposed this rebate program?**

Florence County proposed the rebate program to help consumers increase the quality of our environment, increase energy conservation, promote air quality improvement initiatives and encourage public discussion and awareness of challenges to air quality.

**5. I won the eligible items through a contest; can I apply for the rebate?**

If you were awarded eligible items through a contest, lottery or other giveaway event, you would not be eligible for the rebate.

**6. How long do I have to submit my application?**

Applications must be received before all funds are allocated. Pre-purchase applications may be submitted to determine eligibility and to reserve a rebate for fifteen (15) calendar days. Rebate applications must be submitted within thirty (30) days following equipment purchase.

**7. I am a business; can I get the rebate?**

Currently, this pilot program is only open to County residents improving their households.

**8. When can I expect rebate payments to be issued?**

Application forms will be assessed in the order in which they are received. Every effort will be made to process applications as efficiently as possible. Information regarding the status of applications can be obtained by calling 843 676-8600. Please expect a three week timeframe for check delivery.

**9. Is the rebate taxable?**

Please contact the IRS for tax implications.

**10. When does this rebate program end?**

Applicants can apply for the rebate on eligible items purchased from July 1, 2009 up to when funds are expended or June 30, 2010 unless extended by Florence County Council into the next fiscal year's budget. This rebate program is a first-come, first-served program that will end when funds or time are exhausted.

**11. What if my application is denied?**

An applicant who is denied a rebate and believes a rebate should have been awarded must contact the Planning Director for an appeal within three (3) days of the denial. The Planning Director will have three (3) working days to provide a decision. If the applicant remains unsatisfied, an appeal may be made to the County Administrator for the final decision. The Administrator will have ten (10) calendar days to review and issue a decision.

**12. Power Rebate: How do I determine the electrical demand of my house for 300 days?**

Many energy companies provide electricity usage statistics for individual residential buildings, either by request or via your online account. Once you compile a full year of energy usage, take off the highest two months to get an approximate 300-day usage. This number will determine the size of your solar or wind generation installation which can be estimated by a proper installer/contractor. For example, a house that utilizes gas heat may have the highest electrical demand in June and July – so subtracting those two months would arrive at the target amount of energy to be generated by solar or wind generation and meet this minimum requirement for the program.

**13. Heat Rebate: Can I replace my old HVAC system for the heating system rebate?**

No, this program will not rebate a HVAC replacement. Qualifying installations are new and first time electric or gas heating installations to replace primary wood-burning heating systems. Pre-inspections are required to substantiate the existing wood burn heating system and lack of an existing HVAC system.

**14. Green Construction: Where do I get information to determine if my home construction meets LEED or EarthCraft certification?**

Leadership in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) and EarthCraft House are two leading organizations that rate environmental responsible development. More information about these two programs and how your building may be scored can be found at their respective websites. The LEED rating system may be found at the U.S. Green Building Council website: <http://www.usgbc.com/leed>, while EarthCraft House criteria may be found at <http://earthcrafthouse.com>.

(Note: This document serves as the administrative procedures for this rebate program)

