

# Gimme a Break

**T**he October 2008 financial bailout bill did more than just help the financial industry—it included new incentives for improving the energy efficiency of your home.

If you make energy efficiency improvements after January 1, you'll be eligible for a tax credit of 10 percent of the cost of the improvements up to \$500. That means for \$5,000 worth of home energy efficiency improvements, you'd receive a \$500 credit on your federal income taxes. Plus you'll benefit from reduced energy bills and improved indoor comfort.

There are limits on how much you can claim for certain projects, including windows (\$200); insulation, sealing, exterior doors, and roofs (\$500); central air conditioning, heat pumps, and water heaters (\$300);

and furnaces or boilers (\$150). And additional requirements limit which windows, doors, insulation, roofing materials, and heating and cooling equipment qualify. To help, many manufacturers certify which of their products meet the tax credit requirements.

Soon you may be able to benefit from additional state and local tax breaks too. The bill authorizes an \$800 million government bond program with the goal of encouraging states and municipalities to create incentives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

To learn about national incentives, visit [www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org). For information on state and utility incentives, contact your state energy office or local municipal utility.