

Financing Your Residential Energy Efficiency Project

LOCAL FINANCING PROGRAMS



CONSERVE & \$AVE™

Financing Your Residential Energy Efficiency Project



Energy efficiency improvements can be expensive for homeowners. We are providing this list of resources to help you move your energy saving projects forward. Remember to apply for all available CONSERVE & SAVE™ rebates for your efficiency improvements!

LOCAL LOAN PROGRAMS

Local loan programs are community specific and are only available to community residents.

LOCAL BANKING INSTITUTIONS

Check with your local banking institution to see if they offer special rates or financing for energy saving projects at your home.

MN HOUSING REHAB LOAN PROGRAM

Semcac

www.semcac.org/community-development/housing-rehab-programs/



Loan Type	Contact Person	Interest Rate	Maximum Loan Amount	How is Loan Secured	Income Limit
Rehabilitation Loan	Cindy Vitse 507-864-8207	0%	\$37,500	Recorded mortgage. Deferred if homeowner stays in house 15 years.	contact SEMCAC for income limits
Emergency or Accessibility Loan	Cindy Vitse 507-864-8207	0%	\$27,000	Recorded mortgage. Deferred if homeowner stays in house 15 years.	contact SEMCAC for income limits

About these loans:

This program helps low-income homeowners make their homes more livable, accessible, and energy efficient. These loans place a 15-year mortgage on the property and are forgivable after 15 years if the property has remained the owner's principal place of residence.

What projects are eligible?

Eligible improvements include plumbing, electrical wiring, roofing, heating, accessibility improvements, and remedy of any defect preventing the structure from meeting code requirements.

How do I apply?

Call Cindy Vitse at 507-864-8207 or email cindy.vitse@semcac.org.

LOCAL LOAN PROGRAMS CONTINUED

COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CHIP)

Austin Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA)

Website: www.austinhra.org



Loan Type	Contact Person	Interest Rate	Maximum Loan Amount	How is Loan Secured	2025 Income Limits	Property Eligibility
CHIP I	Taggart Medgaarden 507-433-1866	2%	\$15,000	HRA lien on property	1 person household - \$51,950 2 person household - \$59,350 3 person household - \$66,750 4 person household - \$74,150 5+ person household - Contact HRA	Owner occupied; must have Homeowner's Property & Liability Insurance; current on property tax payments
CHIP II	Taggart Medgaarden 507-433-1866	2%	\$30,000 10 years	HRA lien on property	1 person household - \$65,000 2 person household - \$75,000 3 + person household - \$85,000	

About these loans:

The Austin HRA CHIP loan program focuses on projects that improve the outside appearance and integrity of the property, inside projects that address life and safety improvements, and helping existing homeowners with potential home remodels. The program provides low-interest loans to income eligible, owner occupied homes for property improvements.

What projects are eligible?

- **CHIP I**

Examples of eligible work: painting, siding, windows, roofing, concrete work such as sidewalks and driveways, porch and deck repair or replacement, life and safety improvements, furnace replacement, electrical service replacement

- **CHIP II**

Examples of possible projects: additions, remodels (kitchen, bathroom, basement, etc), deck/patio, new garage, update/improve interiors

How do I apply?

- Pick up an application at the Austin HRA at 308 2nd Ave. NE, Austin, MN 55912.
- Call 507-433-1866.

Applying for Rebates



Austin Utilities offers great rebates to customers who purchase energy efficient equipment and water saving devices. Remember to apply for all available CONSERVE & SAVE™ rebates for your efficiency improvements! Visit www.austinutilities.com to download applications with complete terms and conditions.

Available rebates include:

WATER		
• Bonus Water Heater: – Program-Qualified Water Heater Replacement		
• Water Heating: – Natural Gas Tank Water Heaters (UEF ≥ 0.81) – Natural Gas Tankless Water Heaters (UEF ≥ 0.95) – Electric Heat Pump Water Heaters (ENERGY STAR®)		
• Water Efficiency Measures: – High Efficiency Toilets (WaterSense®) – Rain Barrels (≥ 40 gallons) – Showerheads (WaterSense®) – Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers (WaterSense®)		
GAS		
• Heating & Cooling: – Boilers (Natural Gas, AFUE ≥ 91%) – Furnaces (Natural Gas Retrofit/New, AFUE ≥ 95%–97%) – Furnace Fan Motors (ECM retrofit) – Fireplace Electronic Ignitions		
• Water Heating: – Natural Gas Tank Water Heaters – Natural Gas Tankless Water Heaters		
ELECTRIC		
• Heating & Cooling: – Central Air Conditioners & Ductless Mini Split Systems (SEER2 ≥ 16.2) – Heat Pumps (Air Source & Ground Source) – Smart Thermostats		
• ENERGY STAR® Appliances: – Clothes Washers/Dryers – Heat Pump Clothes Dryers – Dehumidifiers – Air Purifiers – Dishwashers – Refrigerators/Freezers – Electric Induction Cooktops, Ovens & Ranges – Room Air Conditioners		
OTHER		
• House Call Audits: – Standard Audit and Performance Audit (Required for some rebates) – Pre-Audit Questionnaire required; results provide written recommendations		
• Home Insulation Measures: – Attic Insulation – Attic Air Sealing – Wall Insulation (Performed after/with House Call recommendations) – Duct Sealing – Rim Joist Sealing		
• Green Efficiency Measures: – Battery-Powered Lawn Equipment – Electric-Assisted Bicycles (e-bikes) – ENERGY STAR® Level 2 Connected EV Chargers – Variable Speed Pool Pump – Partners in Planting Tree Rebates (see Austin qualifying nurseries and tree list)		