

Commercial Boiler Program Common Questions & Answers

What is the SaskEnergy Commercial Boiler Program?

The Commercial Boiler Program is designed to encourage the use of high-efficiency natural gas hydronic space-heating in commercial new construction and retrofits. Available through SaskEnergy Commercial Network Members located across Saskatchewan, the program provides incentives based on the incremental price of a natural gas condensing boiler over the purchase price of a standard-efficiency boiler(s). Incentives are based upon the installed BTU input of the qualifying equipment installed.

How long is this program available?

This program is available until November 30, 2019. All applications must be received by the November 30, 2019 deadline and the boiler plant must be purchased and installed within 12 months of the date that SaskEnergy approved the application.

Why are you offering commercial incentives?

We know there are many businesses that could benefit from having high efficiency boilers.

This program is designed to encourage commercial property owners to choose the most energy efficient boiler equipment available to maximize their energy and cost savings and reduce emissions into the environment.

How much could our property save by upgrading to a condensing boiler system?

Customers may save up to 40% in natural gas costs by upgrading to the most efficient boiler equipment available. Additional savings may also be realized if the boilers are also used for domestic water heating.

What boilers qualify under this program?

The list of eligible condensing boilers that qualify under this program is developed by Natural Resources Canada and FortisBC. The list is available on the SaskEnergy website at saskenergy.com or from any Commercial Network Member.

The Eligible Boiler List is only to be used as a guide for builders, developers, building owners, mechanical consultants and Commercial Network Members. Please consult with SaskEnergy, Customer Solutions if you have any questions on qualifying equipment.

The list is not exhaustive and may be amended or modified at any time without notice.

Although a boiler that is the subject of an application may be on the list, SaskEnergy reserves the right to refuse any application made by the customer to the Commercial Boiler Program.

SaskEnergy makes no representations, warranties or guarantees regarding any of the boilers or their purported efficiency ratings and does not endorse the use of any particular boiler.

The boiler I'm interested in is not on the eligible list. What do I need to do to have a boiler added to the list?

For a boiler to be listed on SaskEnergy's eligible boiler list it must be listed on Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) and AHRI's website and meet program equipment efficiency levels criteria.

Local distributors can contact the boiler manufacturer to see if they are already working towards having their product line added to NRCAN or AHRI's list of eligible boilers. SaskEnergy, Customer Solutions would be pleased to work with you regarding product eligibility.

Do Network Members offer financing options in addition to the incentives?

Commercial Network Members offer leasing services for the purchase and installation of commercial heating & cooling equipment. In many cases, the increase in efficiency can provide enough savings to offset a large portion of the lease payments, making this an attractive option for many businesses.

What types of building qualify under the program?

The program is targeted towards medium and larger sized commercial buildings. Examples of qualifying buildings would include stores, offices, municipal buildings, churches, community halls, not-for profit organizations, apartment and condominium buildings, dental clinics, and larger agricultural buildings.

If I buy my natural gas from a gas supplier am I still eligible to participate in the program?

Yes, purchasing natural gas from a gas supplier other than SaskEnergy does not preclude you from obtaining an incentive under this program.

We receive provincial funding for our property? Do we qualify?

This program does not apply to buildings that are directly or indirectly, owned or operated by or receive their primary funding from the Province of Saskatchewan (e.g. hospitals, schools, government departments and ministries and Crown Corporations).

Why don't provincially funded buildings qualify?

This program is targeted to encourage commercial building owners to invest in high efficiency equipment that costs significantly more than standard equipment. The incentive is to bring the payback within an acceptable range for those businesses.

Provincially funded buildings such as schools, universities or hospitals accept a longer payback period, making it economical for them to invest in higher efficient equipment without incentives.

How many commercial customers does SaskEnergy serve?

SaskEnergy serves over 39,000 commercial customers throughout Saskatchewan. Of those customers, it is estimated that over 7,800 of these customers use boilers to heat their facilities.

How many commercial properties do you expect to participate in this new program?

Based on recent survey information and the number of boiler installations over the last number of years, we expect that approximately 40 commercial customers will take advantage of the program.

Why is SaskEnergy investing in this program?

SaskEnergy wants to ensure that commercial customers purchase the most energy efficient equipment available for their heating application. Boiler systems are a significant investment, and with regular maintenance, can last for 30 to 40 years.

Standard boilers are available that have a minimum efficiency of 82%. Condensing boilers have steady-state combustion efficiencies from 90% to 98%.

By choosing a more efficient option, customers could benefit from an extra 10% or more in efficiency. It is good for both energy savings and the environment to encourage commercial customer to choose the most efficient equipment available.

I don't qualify for this program, are there any other programs available that I could use?

Customers are eligible to use Federal programs (if available) in addition to the Commercial Boiler Program. The participant is required to declare intention to participate in more than one program when applying for the Commercial Boiler Program.

If other incentive programs are offered by SaskEnergy or the Province of Saskatchewan for boilers, participants are not eligible to participate in more than one program for boilers at the same location. However, participants are eligible to participate in the Commercial Boiler Program while using leasing options offered by Commercial Network Members.

This program helps the larger commercial customers; are there any other SaskEnergy programs to assist smaller commercial properties?

The Commercial HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) Program is targeted towards small to medium sized commercial buildings. It is designed to encourage the use of high-efficiency natural gas furnaces, boilers, rooftop units, unit heaters and infrared heaters in commercial retrofit and new applications.

Available through participating SaskEnergy Commercial & Residential Network Members located across Saskatchewan, the program provides incentives based on the incremental price of energy-efficient natural gas boilers, furnaces, rooftop units, and infrared heaters. Incentives are based on the type, number, and size of units installed.

Please visit www.saskenergy.com for full program details.

Does SaskEnergy profit from this program?

No, SaskEnergy does not profit from this program.

Why is the program offered only through the SaskEnergy Commercial Network?

This program is an extension of services offered by SaskEnergy Commercial Network Members throughout the province. Commercial Network Member criteria ensure consumer protection through appropriate levels of insurance coverage, performance bonding and warranty requirements.

What is the SaskEnergy Commercial Network?

SaskEnergy Commercial Network Members is a group of qualified commercial contractors that work together to introduce programs and services that expand our business and offer our commercial customers greater choice, flexibility and seamless customer service.

Qualifying criteria, such as ability to offer performance bonding, qualified trades people and warranty help to ensure consumer protection.

The SaskEnergy Commercial Network was formed through industry dialogue with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan (MCAS) and independent natural gas contractors. We welcome new members and SaskEnergy or MCAS would be happy to speak to any interested contractor about how to become part of the SaskEnergy Network.

Who participates at the Commercial Industry Dialogue table?

SaskEnergy, Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan (MCAS) and independent natural gas contractors work in partnership through a dialogue process to develop the Commercial Network and programs.

Who developed the guiding principles of the Commercial Network?

Membership criteria and guidelines were developed and endorsed by members of the Commercial Industry Dialogue table, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan Board of Directors and SaskEnergy.

My mechanical contractor is not a Network Member. Why isn't their company allowed to participate in this program?

We would be pleased to talk to any contractor about the business and customer benefits of Network membership, as well as the qualification criteria established in consultation with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan.

How does a mechanical contractor become a member of the Commercial Network?

Interested mechanical contractors can contact Carolyn Bagnall at the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan at 306-664-2154 or SaskEnergy Customer Solutions at 306-777-9460. We would be pleased to discuss membership with you and can forward you an application for membership.

What do I do if there are no Commercial Network Members in my community?

Commercial Network members regularly do work throughout the province no matter which community their office is located in.