EFFICIENCY MANITOBA SPRING 2022

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SAVE TODAY. SAVE TOMORROW.

FINALLY, IT'S SPRING!

Here's what you can find in this edition of our magazine:

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Remember to change your furnace air filter every three months! This will help your heating and cooling system run more efficiently.



For more energy-saving tips and technical advice, check out efficiencyMB.ca/articles.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

What a winter we've had! We endured freezing temperatures, above-average snowfall, and the persistence of COVID-19 through another holiday season. We Manitobans have really had to live up to our reputation of resilience to weather the storm — so to speak. As we move into the spring, we're looking ahead to the future with hope and excitement.

It's incredible to think that Efficiency Manitoba is celebrating its second birthday. Manitobans are becoming more familiar with our name and our mission, which is evidenced by the number of rebate applications and enquiries that have been coming in.

Our phone lines, emails, and social media channels are buzzing with questions and discussions. We've never been busier and that's a good thing! Your participation in our programs and offers shows us that you value energy efficiency and the many benefits it provides.

Since we've been staying home more and spending less money on experiences outside the home, many Manitobans are looking forward to undertaking some spring renovations to their homes and businesses. While a fresh coat of paint and new kitchen cabinets add an undeniable aesthetic value to your indoor surroundings, there's something to be said for deeper retrofits — the ones that pay you back over time. Adding insulation, installing highperformance windows and doors, and other energy efficiency upgrades lead to ongoing financial savings you'll appreciate for years into the future. After all, who wouldn't be happy to see an Efficiency Manitoba rebate cheque in the mail just as your renovation bills are arriving? You'll be grateful for the lower energy costs during the next Manitoba winter, especially if it's as cold as this last one!



The number of options to improve your energy efficiency might feel overwhelming at first, but we're here to help. Our website has information about our wide range of rebate programs as well as articles with technical advice and simple tips to help you save. If you're not sure where to start on your energy efficiency journey, we have a virtual energy review on our website that generates a custom energy use report and recommends Efficiency Manitoba offers that suit your needs. And if you have any questions, our team of experts is just a phone call or email away.

I would be remiss to not mention the impact COVID-19 has had throughout our province. With your participation, we're in a vital position to aid in Manitoba's economic recovery. Energy efficiency plays an important role in creating green jobs and supporting contractors, retailers, and consultants that coordinate and install energy efficiency upgrades in homes and businesses. We're very excited to contribute to Manitoba's growing green economy.

We look forward to connecting with you soon to help you save. Until then, enjoy the sunshine, renewal, and hope this spring has to offer.

Colleen Kuruluk Chief Executive Officer, Efficiency Manitoba

Natural gas efficiency programs are funded in part by the Low Carbon Economy Fund.

Funded in part by: Financé en partie par : Canada





THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

If you live in Winnipeg's North End or Chalmers neighbourhoods, you might hear an Energy Efficiency Advocate knocking on your door this spring.

They're part of our neighbourhood canvassing program. We're offering it in partnership with the North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC) and the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC). Both organizations are actively engaging with community members to help them save energy and money using our Energy Efficiency Assistance Program.



"Housing in the North End area is among the oldest stock in Winnipeg, with over 50% of homes built before 1946," says Energy Efficiency Advocate Deborah from NECRC. "We see the need for energy efficiency, and we know the value of community engagement."

Homes in the Chalmers neighbourhood, across the Red River from the North End, are similar in age. The majority of homes were built before 1950.

One way Energy Efficiency Advocates are engaging with residents in these communities is by canvassing one block each week from spring to fall. They speak with residents about the many benefits of accessing energy-saving upgrades and help them fill out applications. Residents living on these blocks are pre-qualified to participate in the Energy Efficiency Assistance Program, making the process even simpler.

"We are going to the people — they don't have to find us," says Energy Efficiency Advocate Charity from CNRC. "This is especially helpful for anyone who may not have access to the internet to find these resources."

That was the case for a recent Energy Efficiency Assistance Program participant. He had been living in the Chalmers area since 1965 but had never heard of the CNRC and didn't have access to the internet.

"If we had not gone to his door with this information, he likely would not have accessed the program," Charity says.

Gabrielle from our Efficiency Manitoba team offers another service: she speaks Tagalog. She can talk with Filipino homeowners in their native language.

"This gives them the chance to ask additional questions and learn more," Gabrielle says. "Being understood and having the opportunity to express their stories, thoughts, and concerns about their home is a valuable experience our canvassing efforts allows for."

Even when canvassing finishes for the season, we're still here to help. The Energy Efficiency Advocates continue to work with customers and provide them with guidance and support. They also attend meetings and events within the community to get support from other organizations, build relationships, and reach potential customers.

"Every little bit counts," Charity says. "Making peoples' homes warmer and saving energy can end up having a big impact for homeowners, landlords, and renters."



New Energy Efficiency Assistance Program offers

We've added these new offers to our Energy Efficiency Assistance Program:

- An upgrade from a mid-efficiency natural gas furnace to a high-efficiency natural gas furnace for only \$25 per month for five years (for a total cost of \$1,500); and
- Site preparation service. _ _ _ _ _

And of course, we still offer a free home energy check-up, free insulation upgrades (including labour and materials), upgrades from standard-efficiency furnaces (for only \$9.50 per month for five years), and free energy-efficient devices like LED bulbs, low-flow showerheads, and faucet aerators. Making these energy efficiency upgrades can help lower your monthly energy bill and make your home more comfortable.

Visit **efficiencyMB.ca/eeap** to find out if you're eligible for the program and to start your application. Or, speak with an Energy Efficiency Advocate if they knock on your door this spring!

SITE PREPARATION SERVICE

If you live in Winnipeg and are participating in the Energy Efficiency Assistance Program, but need a hand preparing your home for an upgrade, our new pilot program can help. We're partnering with Purpose Construction to help clear your space to ensure there's enough room for contractors to complete your insulation or furnace upgrade.

SPRING CLEANING CHECKLIST

Spring cleaning isn't just for messy closets and piles of boxes in your garage. While you're giving your home a good scrub-down, take some time to focus on the areas where you can improve its energy efficiency. Here's a checklist that you can use to make sure you haven't missed anything:

- Change your furnace filter. Make sure you do this at the start of every new season!
- □ Clean your air conditioning unit. Brush or vacuum away any leaves, branches, grass, or debris that might have blown into the unit.
- Have your air ducts cleaned. This will help your air conditioner run more efficiently this spring and summer and will keep your indoor air nice and fresh too.
- Clean out your clothes dryer vent regularly. A lint-free vent will help your dryer run at peak performance
- Give your fridge a good cleaning. If your fridge and freezer are organized and not jam-packed, you won't waste as much energy keeping the doors open while you find what you need. Also, clean the coils at the back or bottom of your fridge.
- Hang your clean laundry outside to dry.
 This is a more energy-efficient alternative to running your clothes dryer.



TIPS FOR A SPRING FULL OF SAVINGS

Spring is a great time to give your house a good freshening up. Save energy, money, and the environment this spring by using some (or all!) of these handy tips.

Save energy & money

- Wait as long as you can to start using your air conditioner. If you need to cool down, open some windows for natural ventilation.
- Check your windows and doors for gaps and cracks. Caulk and seal any problem areas to prevent air leaks and replace any worn-out weatherstripping. A leaky home is an inefficient home!
- Plant trees around your south- and west-facing windows. These trees will shade your home in the spring and summer and keep you cool.
- For some people, the best part about the warmer weather is getting outside and firing up the barbecue. Keep the cooking heat out of your home and enjoy the flavours of the grill.

Save the environment

- Doing some spring cleaning? Dispose of things the right way. Talk to your city or municipality about where to drop off old paint cans, electronics, batteries, and plastic bags.
 Also, visit recyclemyelectronics.ca/mb to learn more about safe and responsible recycling options for your electronics.
- Use a rain barrel. You can use the water you collect to water your grass, plants, and garden. You can even use it to wash your car. Just make sure to cover it when rain isn't in the forecast to keep mosquitoes away!
- With the warmer weather comes delicious Manitoba fruits and vegetables. Choose locally grown produce whenever possible, and plan your meals ahead of time to minimize food waste.

SPRING INTO ACTION WITH ENERGY-EFFICIENT RENOVATIONS

Are you thinking about the home renovations you're going to tackle this spring and summer? Look beyond the cosmetic upgrades and consider energy efficiency projects. By improving the efficiency of your home, your efforts will pay you back for years into the future with lower energy bills and a more comfortable living space. And when the bills start coming in for that big project, we're here to put some money back in your pocket!

Before you start your project, check out our rebates to help you renovate with energy efficiency in mind.

Qualify. Insulate. Get a rebate.

If your home was built before 1999, it might not have enough insulation. Adding insulation to your attic, walls, and foundation can help you save money on your energy bills and improve the comfort of your home. We have rebates that could cover up to the entire cost of insulation material.

Visit efficiencyMB.ca/homeinsulation to see if your home qualifies.

New windows, new doors & so much more!

If you're planning on changing your windows and doors this season, think about high-performance models with at least triple-pane glass. We'll give you a \$50 rebate for each eligible **ENERGY STAR*** certified window or door you install. You'll cut your energy costs, feel fewer drafts, and see less condensation. As a bonus, they'll make your home look more modern and make your space more soundproof.

Visit **efficiencyMB.ca/windowsanddoors** to see if you qualify, and check our list of eligible products before you buy.

Splash into savings with a variable-speed pool pump

Do you have a pool? Or are you having one installed this year? Consider upgrading from single-speed to an **ENERGY STAR*** certified variable-speed pool pump. We'll give you a \$300 rebate toward your purchase of the pump, plus you'll save up to \$300 on your energy bills every pool season over the life of the pump. Saving money isn't the only benefit. Variable-speed pool pumps are quieter, need less maintenance, last longer, and provide better filtration than other models.

Visit **efficiencyMB.ca/poolpumps** to see if you qualify, and check our list of eligible pumps before you buy.



FIND A SUPPLIER

We work with contractors, retailers, and consultants throughout Manitoba, creating opportunities for economic growth. Registered Efficiency Manitoba suppliers can help you participate in our programs. Go to **efficiencyMB.ca/find-a-supplier** to find a registered supplier in your community.



Do you have an old working fridge or freezer you're looking to get rid of? We can take it off your hands for free! We'll pick it up from your home, recycle it responsibly, and give you \$30 for each qualifying appliance.

Go to efficiencyMB.ca/appliancerecycling or call 204-944-8181 (toll free at 1-844-944-8181) to book your pick-up today.



CURRENT OFFERS

Making your home more energy efficient doesn't have to be costly. We make it easy and affordable to invest in energy efficiency upgrades. With a variety of programs and rebates, we're here to help you save energy, money, and the environment.

Learn more about our programs and rebates at **efficiencyMB.ca**.



\$300 REBATE

ON SELECT ENERGY STAR[®] CERTIFIED VARIABLE-SPEED POOL PUMPS



\$12,000 IN REBATES

BUILD A CERTIFIED ENERGY EFFICIENT NEW HOME



CUSTOMIZED OFFERS

FOR INDIGENOUS CUSTOMERS

Beyond our programs and rebates, we work in partnership with Manitoba Hydro to offer the Home Energy Efficiency Loan. It offers financing to help you make energy efficiency upgrades to your home. Your monthly payment is conveniently added to your energy bill.

Go to **hydro.mb.ca/heel** to learn more and find out if you and your project qualify.



\$30 REBATE & FREE PICK-UP

WHEN YOU RECYCLE YOUR OLD WORKING FRIDGE OR FREEZER



\$1,000 IN REBATES

ON HIGH-PERFORMANCE WINDOWS & DOORS



100% REBATE ON INSULATION MATERIALS

> QUALIFY. INSULATE. GET A REBATE.



\$2.50 PER SQUARE FOOT IN REBATES

FOR INSTALLING A GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP



FREE HOME ENERGY CHECK-UP & MORE

FURNACE & INSULATION UPGRADES FOR INCOME-QUALIFYING HOUSEHOLDS



\$150 REBATE

ON SELECT ADVANCED HEAT RECOVERY VENTILATOR CONTROLS



FREE VIRTUAL ENERGY REVIEW

GET A CUSTOM ENERGY USE REPORT IN LESS THAN 10 MINUTES



HOW CAN I SAVE ENERGY AS A RENTER?

As a tenant, you may be wondering what you can do to save energy and make your living space more comfortable. Here are six simple and inexpensive ways to lower your energy costs:

- If your house or suite still has old and inefficient light bulbs, swap them out for LEDs.
- This spring and summer, raise the temperature on your thermostat before you leave the house so your air conditioner doesn't run needlessly. Start with increasing the temperature on your thermostat by around 3 to 4°C. If your landlord or property manager allows it, install a programmable or smart thermostat to make this even easier.
- 3 Unplug electronics when you're not using them, or use an advanced power strip to cut power to your electronics automatically.
- If you have a dishwasher, remember to always run a full load. You can also skip the drying cycle and air dry your dishes to save even more.
- Use your blinds and curtains effectively. This spring and summer, close the blinds during the day to keep your living space nice and cool.
- Make sure your air registers aren't blocked by furniture and clutter. This will allow air to move freely throughout your living space.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

We offer two programs to help renters save energy, money, and the environment. Talk to your landlord about participating!

- If you're on a limited income, your household may be eligible for our Energy Efficiency Assistance Program. Your home could qualify for free insulation, a subsidized furnace upgrade, and other energysaving upgrades. Encourage your landlord to visit efficiencyMB.ca/eeap to learn more.
- Our In-Suite Energy Efficiency Program is available to property managers and owners of multiunit residential buildings. We offer free installation of basic energysaving items like showerheads and LED bulbs, and you could even get a smart thermostat and an advanced heat recovery ventilator control. Your landlord can visit efficiencyMB.ca/insuite for more information.

UNPLUG & EXPLORE MANITOBA

After the winter we just had, we get that you're probably excited to spend some time outside! Here are four adventures you can take to unplug and explore Manitoba.

Journey through sand dunes

Head to Spruce Woods Provincial Park and visit the Spirit Sands — Manitoba's only desert and our largest sand dunes. Hike one of the self-guided trails, ranging from two to 10 kilometres, or catch a ride on a horse-drawn wagon. This area is home to plants and animals you can find only in Manitoba. The huge dunes soak up the heat, so visit in the spring or early morning during the summer.

Enjoy the shores of Lake Winnipeg

Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park. Relax at the spa for a day, read on the beach, learn about Icelandic history, play a round of golf, or hike to the Gull Harbour Lighthouse. If you want a longer vacation, book a hotel room or campsite.

Get your nature fix in the big city

Spend time at FortWhyte Alive in Winnipeg for a few hours or a full day. Watch for wildlife on the trails or get on the water by renting a canoe. For a one-of-a-kind experience, go on a bison safari this summer. You'll board a bus to get within a few metres of these animals and learn how they've shaped Canada's history.

Hear the rumbling of waterfalls

Pisew Falls Provincial Park is 45 minutes south of Thompson and home to the second-highest waterfall in Manitoba. Here, the Grass River drops 13 metres, which you can watch from the observation platform. A 0.5-kilometre trail takes you to a bridge over the river. Experienced hikers can continue on the 22-kilometre return trail to Kwasitchewan Falls, the highest waterfall in the province at 14 metres.



FOR MORE ADVENTURES

Visit **travelmanitoba.com** for more inspiration on where to go next. Before you leave for your trip, check for any provincial public health guidance and/or restrictions.



FUKUMOTO FITNESS FLEXING SOME STRONG SAVINGS

Manitoba small businesses are essential for not only building a strong local economy but also providing inviting spaces that encourage community bonds. This is especially true of Fukumoto Fitness, an award-winning fitness facility in Winnipeg's North Kildonan neighbourhood.

Owner Johnny Fukumoto recognized an opportunity to enhance his training rooms with brighter, more efficient lighting. Improved lighting would not only create a more productive environment for his valued clients but also help him lower his energy bills. Being able to save some money each month was important to Johnny, considering the challenges COVID-19 has had on his business.

"We've had to shut our gym down three times and reduce our capacity for many months," remarked Johnny. "We have had challenges staffing our sessions due to people having to stay home, and we've had a hard time finding great people to hire as many have left the industry as a result."

Needless to say, we were eager to support Johnny and his team. Our Small Business Program was able to help Fukumoto Fitness make energy efficiency upgrades by offering expert resources and significant =financial assistance.

At the same time, he was quick to note the resiliency of his staff. "Our team has galvanized in tough times, and our response internally will stand out to our community. This is something we will all be proud of looking back."



The project

We started off by providing Fukumoto Fitness with basic energy-saving devices. Technicians from Ecofitt, the program's contracted delivery agent, installed low-flow faucet aerators and LED bulbs in the facility for free. This helped Johnny save energy right away at no cost.

With the goal of creating a bright, inviting, and energy-efficient space, Johnny continued with further energy retrofits through our program's Premium Upgrade, which offers businesses an additional rebate for upgrading their inefficient lighting. We helped him replace 145 inefficient linear fluorescent lamps with energy-saving LEDs.

Johnny was pleased with how smooth the entire process was. "The contractors who were on-site were very professional in the way they communicated," he told us. "They did high-quality work in a short period of time."

The best part? We covered 70% of the entire project cost, so Johnny only had to pay a fraction of the total. More good news: he'll get back his investment through energy bill savings in less than two years.

The future of Fukumoto Fitness

It's been less than a year since Johnny received his upgrades, but he's already noticing and appreciating the benefits of his energy-efficient space.

"The lighting upgrades have made a big difference in the winter months, especially on overall mood and mental health." he told us. He also acknowledged the longevity of his new lighting, so he'll enjoy the benefits for years into the future.

If you have a small business and you're looking to save energy and money, we're here to help. Go to efficiencyMB.ca/smallbusiness to learn more about the free upgrades and rebates you could receive through our Small Business Program.

COMPOSTING: ANYONE CAN DO IT

Visit greenactioncentre.ca/composting



Typical content of residential waste in Canada*

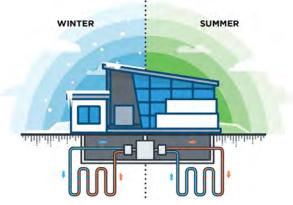
- **40%** Organic materials
- 10% Bulky goods

10% Other materials

40% Recyclable materials

*Federation of Canadian Municipalities





DIG DEEP FOR SAVINGS WITH A GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP

A ground source heat pump is one of the most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly heating and cooling systems available. Ground source heat pumps, sometimes called geothermal heat pumps, can reduce your heating costs by up to 60% compared to an electric furnace. Replacing an electric furnace in a 1,600-square-foot home could result in an incentive of up to \$4,000 and save you \$900 per year in energy costs!

How ground source heat pumps work

What makes ground source heat pumps so efficient? They use the earth's temperature to manage the heating and cooling in your home.

An electric pump circulates a heat transfer fluid through a loop of pipes that are buried underground. In heating mode, the fluid inside the loop absorbs heat from the earth, which stays at a stable temperature year-round even in Manitoba winters. The heated fluid then passes through a heat exchanger into the heat pump, where the heat is extracted and delivered to either a fan coil or a radiator system in your home.

In cooling mode, the process reverses and heat from your home redistributes back into the ground.

Ground source heat pump systems use four basic ground loop configurations: horizontal, vertical, well-to-well, and lake (or pond) loops. The best design for your needs depends on ground conditions, availability and quality of groundwater, the size of your property, and the size of your home. Talk to your contractor to find out if a ground source heat pump is right for you.

Next steps to install a ground source heat pump

Before changing your heating system, it's a good idea to upgrade the insulation, windows, and airtightness of your home. Undertaking these measures first may help with reducing the size of the heat pump system needed, further reducing costs.

You should consider the most appropriate type of ground loop for your installation. If your lot is large and open, a horizontal loop could be a good option. If your lot is smaller, you'll likely need a vertical ground loop, which would require a contractor to drill multiple deep holes within your lot. Both horizontal and vertical ground loops may affect your existing landscaping since drilling equipment will need access. Talk to your contractor about the best ground loop options for your home.

Once you're ready to upgrade to a ground source heat pump, we offer incentives to make it more affordable. You can get a rebate of up to \$2.50 per square foot of space heated by a ground source heat pump! Visit **efficiencyMB.ca/heatpump** to learn more and find out if you qualify.

PARTNERSHIPS MAKE PERFECT

Offering energy efficiency programs to Manitobans is what we do best, and partnerships play a big role in our work to help Manitobans save energy. This spring, we're excited to announce many new partnerships to help us reach all Manitobans for their energy-saving needs.

One partnership we're excited to highlight is with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF). The MMF is the democratic government for the Manitoba Métis, also known as the Red River Métis, the origin and core of the Métis Nation.

To help support Red River Métis Citizens access energy efficiency programs for their homes and businesses, we're funding an Energy Efficiency Advocate through the MMF. The Energy Efficiency Advocate will work out of the MMF Winnipeg office while also supporting the other six regional offices in promoting our programs and rebates.

"The MMF is committed to creating partnerships and opportunities that continue to benefit our Red River Métis Citizens," says Will Goodon, MMF Minister of Housing and Property Management. "We offer many programs that ensure we are creating long-lasting success for our Citizens, from our first-time homeowners program to our HELP initiative. The MMF will always make sure we have programs that help our Citizens thrive."

"Our partnership with Efficiency Manitoba through the Energy Efficiency Advocate is just one of the ways the Red River Métis government is looking out for our Citizens. We are excited to see how many Red River Métis Citizens will be able to access these energy efficiency programs for their homes and businesses." In addition to funding an Energy Efficiency Advocate, we have specific programs for Red River Métis Citizens:

- Our Métis Energy Efficiency Offers is an income-based program that provides homeowners and tenants with a turnkey solution for receiving energy efficiency upgrades. Through the free home energy check-up, you can receive a variety of energy-saving devices and find out if you qualify for free insulation or a subsidized natural gas furnace. Learn more and find out if you qualify by going to efficiencyMB.ca/meeo.
- Our Indigenous Small Business Program can help improve the energy efficiency in Métis Nation small businesses. We offer free lighting and other energy efficiency upgrades to Red River Métis Citizens who own a qualifying business registered with the Louis Riel Capital Corporation. Go to **efficiencyMB.ca/isbp** to learn more.

In addition to the Energy Efficiency Advocate partnership with the MMF, we're also funding Energy Efficiency Advocates through our Indigenous Community Energy Efficiency Program in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Lake Manitoba First Nation. York Factory First Nation, Ebb and Flow First Nation, Red Sucker Lake First Nation, and Lake St. Martin First Nation. We're also partnering with five other communities and are working to finalize their agreements. Over the two-year partnerships, we'll support the Energy Efficiency Advocates in creating a community energy efficiency plan to help reduce the overall energy use in these First Nation communities.

CONNECT WITH US



Get a free home energy use report in less than 10 minutes with our virtual energy review.

To learn more about this and other great offers, go to pages 08 and 09.

Give us a call:

Winnipeg: **204-944-8181** Toll free: **1-844-944-8181**

Send us an email: energyteam@efficiencyMB.ca

Visit our website: efficiencyMB.ca Sign up for our newsletter: efficiencyMB.ca/newsletter

Follow us on social media:

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Available in accessible formats upon request.

WORK WITH US!

Procurement opportunities

We're committed to working with suppliers, vendors, and service providers that help us reach our energy efficiency goals and provide real value to Manitobans. To make this happen, we've developed a public procurement process that's transparent, competitive, and non-discriminatory. Check out Efficiency Manitoba in the Canadian Tenders section at **MERX.com** or go to **efficiencyMB.ca/opportunities** to see current procurement opportunities.

Careers

Are you passionate about energy efficiency and want to work somewhere that makes a real difference in the lives of Manitobans? We want you on our team! Visit efficiencyMB.ca/careers or email us at careers@efficiencyMB.ca for current job postings.

