



QUESTION & ANSWER

Will CEIP increase my property tax?

This voluntary program will allow residential property owners to apply for and obtain low interest loans from the Town of Okotoks to complete energy efficiency renovations. Only the property owners who choose to participate in CEIP would see an increase on their annual property tax bill, based on improvements made to their property. These increases will be noted on your annual tax bill until your CEIP financing has been repaid. If you do not participate in the program, it will not impact your property taxes.

How do I apply?

You can apply for Okotoks' CEIP program online at Alberta Municipalities website, ceip.abmunis.ca.

Is CEIP a rebate program?

CEIP is not exclusively a rebate or incentive program. Homeowners participating in CEIP will receive financing for their approved clean energy improvements and will be required to pay the cost back plus interest through their property tax bill.

For a limited time, The Town of Okotoks is offering an incentive for completed CEIP projects. The incentive will be applied directly to the Clean Energy Improvement Tax reducing the project financing by \$500. Availability is limited and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

What is the interest rate? And what will my annual payment be?

The current interest rate for eligible CEIP projects is 3% for the length of the pilot.

The interest rate is fixed, which means that the interest rate in effect when you enter into your Clean Energy Improvement Agreement will apply for your property for the duration of the payment term. The Program Terms and Conditions will be listed at ceip.abmunis.ca once the program is launched.

The annual Clean Energy Improvement Tax payment is based on your project costs and length of repayment terms. CEIP participants will receive a detailed breakdown of their repayment obligations in their Clean Energy Improvement Agreement.

Will the program application form be on the Town of Okotoks website?

Alberta Municipalities is the designated program administrator for Clean Energy Improvement Programs across Alberta. The first point of contact for your application is

Alberta Municipalities. More information on the program administrator can be found at ceip.abmunis.ca.

Can I complete a do-it-yourself (DIY) project?

No, all work must be completed by a CEIP Qualified Contractor. Once the program is launched, you can find the list of eligible CEIP Qualified Contractors at ceip.abmunis.ca/directory and filter for Okotoks and the services you require for your project.

My name is not on the Certificate of Title for my property – can I still apply?

Applicants to CEIP must be listed as owners on the property's Certificate of Title in order to be eligible. All property owners listed on the Certificate of Title must sign the Clean Energy Improvement Agreement.

Can I participate in CEIP and similar programs offered by other organizations (e.g., Canada Greener Homes Initiative)?

Residential property owners can participate in the Clean Energy Improvement Program and other programs like the federal government's Canada Greener Homes Initiative. Property owners are encouraged to review the terms and conditions for all programs to ensure their project meets all eligibility criteria.

How much funding is available?

The Town will have \$1,574,285 in financing available for Okotoks homeowners through a loan and grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Is there a maximum amount of financing that a property owner can apply for through CEIP?

A property owner can apply for a minimum of \$3,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 for clean energy improvements. The annual CEIP tax payments are not allowed to exceed the annual property tax payment amount for the property.

What types of properties are eligible for CEIP financing?

The program is targeted to residential properties completing retrofits. New builds are ineligible at this time. Properties eligible for the program include single and semi-detached houses, row houses, townhomes, and some units in multi-unit residential buildings. The eligibility criteria will be listed at program launch in the CEIP Terms and Conditions found at ceip.abmunis.ca.

Why do I need to do an EnerGuide Home Evaluation?

An EnerGuide Home Evaluation can help you understand how your home uses energy now – and identify retrofits to help improve energy efficiency. This will give you an EnerGuide rating for your home and an energy efficiency report to help you make decisions about possible upgrades. Learn more about EnerGuide Home Evaluations by visiting [Natural Resources Canada](http://NaturalResourcesCanada.ca).

I had an EnerGuide Home Evaluation completed recently – do I need to do another one?

Version 15 EnerGuide Home Evaluations completed after April 1 2020, can be used for

your CEIP application as long as it is current to the state of your home and is not older than 3 years.

How do I find my property description and roll number for my Pre-Qualification Application?

Review your most recent property assessment notice or property tax bill to identify your property description and roll number. This can be done by looking at your paper notice or by signing up to view your documents on the Okotoks [Virtual Town Hall](#).

What types of home upgrades are eligible for the program?

A number of energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades are eligible for the program. A list of upgrades and the applicable eligibility criteria can be found at ceip.abmunis.ca/residential/upgrades.

I am a contractor working in energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Okotoks and Calgary area – how can I participate?

Only CEIP Qualified Contractors are eligible to work on Clean Energy Improvement Program projects. Visit ceip.abmunis.ca/contractor now to learn more and apply to become a CEIP Qualified Contractor.

Can I start on my project now and access CEIP financing later?

No, an application will need to be submitted and approved, and a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement signed between the property owners, the Program Administrator and the Town of Okotoks prior to any work being started on the project. Please ensure you have a current business license with the Town of Okotoks.

Is CEIP different than PACE programs?

PACE stands for Property Assessed Clean Energy. It's a financial instrument that allows property owners to finance energy efficiency or renewable energy upgrades through their municipal property taxes. CEIP stands for the Clean Energy Improvement Program and is Alberta's version of PACE.

Although a similar financing mechanism to PACE, CEIP has its own unique guidelines and requirements that are specific to the Alberta context and designed to support the local economy while also protecting property owners.

What is the Clean Energy Improvement Bylaw?

In order to participate in the program, municipalities need to first pass a CEIP bylaw. That bylaw authorizes a municipality to borrow money for the purpose of financing clean energy improvements and use the property tax system to facilitate repayment from property owners.

On October 23, 2023, Okotoks' Clean Energy Improvement Bylaw is open to a Public Hearing with the Okotoks Town Council. The Bylaw will enable the Town to offer CEIP in Okotoks and provides guidelines for how the program should operate in Okotoks.

Can I access CEIP for upgrades to commercial properties?

No. The CEIP pilot program is available to residential properties as specified in the bylaw.

The Town of Okotoks, based on the success of the pilot program, may contemplate expansion of the program to a commercial offering.

Why is CEIP good for Okotoks?

In Okotoks, we track the amount of greenhouse gas emissions added to the atmosphere every year through activities that happen within our Town boundaries. Residential buildings account for approximately 30 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in Okotoks. A significant portion of the buildings that will exist in Okotoks in 2050 have already been built today, making it necessary to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements as we move to a low carbon future. CEIP is one of many tools that we need to support greenhouse gas reductions.

Programs like CEIP also support our local economy. The home improvement projects that qualify for CEIP will create work for local energy efficiency and renewable energy contractors.

This program is carried out with assistance from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund, an endowment created by the Government of Canada.

