

President Biden's Affordable Clean Energy Plan is the largest investment in clean energy in world history, dedicating a whopping \$370 billion dollars to help homeowners, renters, local governments, schools, small businesses, and others to transition away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy. This is done through incentives, lowering the costs of clean energy and energy-efficiency home improvements. There are three major incentives that homeowners are eligible for – the clean energy tax credits, the HOMES rebate, and the HEAR rebate.

The [clean energy tax credit](#) is the first and largest of the three benefits. The tax credit covers clean energy generation, energy efficiency upgrades, and electric vehicles. With this, there is a discount of up to 30 percent on solar panels, heat pumps, battery storage, insulation, windows, efficient appliances, and more. Consumers are able to save up to \$7,500 with a point-of-purchase tax credit for new electric vehicles, and up to \$4,000 for used electric vehicles. To take advantage of this tax credit, check to see if your purchase is eligible with a contractor or through the [IRS' site](#); save the receipt from your purchase; fill out [IRS Form 5695](#); and deduct the tax credit from your federal taxes. Not only will you save on the home improvement, but your monthly energy costs will go down too! The clean energy tax credit is a part of the federal tax code until 2032, so its benefits will be long lasting.

[The HOMES rebate](#) is the most recent benefit to be rolled out, with Wisconsin being the first state to release the rebate! The HOMES rebate is focused on improving household energy efficiency, so things like EnergyStar appliances, home insulation, heat pumps, windows, and exterior doors are covered. Eligibility for this program is based on household income, but homeowners could be eligible for a rebate of up to \$10,000. The HOMES rebate requires a home

energy assessment, in which [a licensed contractor](#) will conduct a series of tests around the household to see what improvements could be made to improve the home's energy efficiency. Once figuring out which improvements work best for you, you apply for the rebate through Focus on Energy. Once they accept your application, the rebate is applied at the point of purchase, meaning that you will save big on these upfront costs!

[The third rebate is HEAR](#), which is expected to be rolled out sometime in November. While the HOMES rebate is focused on whole-home renovations, the HEAR rebate is more focused on smaller improvements. Things like EnergyStar appliances, home insulation, heat pumps, windows, and exterior doors are all covered by HEAR as well, but it's more focused on buying just one appliance or improvement as opposed to a whole-home renovation. Like HOMES, HEAR has income eligibility, in which eligible beneficiaries can get up to 100 percent of the purchase of many of these minor improvements. Like HOMES, you apply through Focus on Energy to receive the rebate before purchasing the appliance. Once approved, the HEAR rebate will be applied at the point of purchase. Unlike the clean energy tax credits which are available to everyone until 2032, the HOMES and HEAR rebates are first-come, first-served. The federal government allocated nearly \$150 million to the State of Wisconsin to fund the HOMES and HEAR rebates, meaning that it's paramount that information about these programs is shared as quickly and as widely as possible. We want every Wisconsinite in every corner of the state to take advantage of these benefits as soon as possible!

This is all very exciting information, and it can be difficult to know where to start looking. [Wisconsin Conservation Voters has a dedicated website](#) with all of this information and

more. It includes an energy-savings calculator, municipal-specific programs, a list of contractors certified to know all about these benefits, and tons of stories of Wisconsinites utilizing the benefits from President Biden's Affordable Clean Energy Plan. If you have any questions about any of these benefits, please feel free to reach out to me, Quinn Rowe, Federal Clean Energy Campaign Manager with WCV, at quinn@conservationvoters.org or at 715-204-9024, and I can guide you in the right direction. I hope you are all able to take advantage of these great cost savings benefits and can help us fight for a clean energy future!