



## Tax Credits and Incentives for Energy Efficiency Upgrades

In August 2022, the federal government created the *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022* — the largest federally funded clean energy and climate change package in U.S. history. The package includes 124 programs addressing agriculture, buildings, manufacturing, renewables, electric vehicles, transportation, forests, and more. These programs provide tax credits, rebates, loans, and grants — which may help you save energy and money on your energy bills, reduce your carbon footprint, and improve the comfort of your home.

### Federal Tax Credits for Residential Energy Efficiency Upgrades

#### Home energy audits:

- 30% credit up to \$150

#### Heat pump water heaters:

- 30% tax credit up to \$2,000

#### Central air conditioners:

- 30% tax credit up to \$600

#### Air source heat pumps:

- 30% tax credit up to \$1,200, and geothermal heat pumps up to 30% tax credit with no cap

### Building envelope components:

- Doors — a 30% credit or \$250 per door up to \$500
- Exterior windows and lights — a 30% credit up to \$600
- Insulation and sealing materials — a 30% credit up to \$1,200

See federal guidelines at [energystar.gov/about/federal\\_tax\\_credits](https://energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits) for a full list of measures, details, and important tax credit limits when combining measures. You may want to consult your tax advisor for guidance.

### Idaho State Resources

The State of Idaho currently offers low-interest loans of up to \$30,000 for residential energy efficiency improvements. Visit [oemr.idaho.gov/energy-efficiency/](https://oemr.idaho.gov/energy-efficiency/) for more information.



### How to Get Started

If you are interested in making your home more energy efficient, here are a few tips to get started:

- Consider a home energy audit to identify areas where your home can be made more energy efficient.
- Research federal tax credits that may be available to you.
- Choose energy efficiency upgrades that are right for your home and budget.

### Did You Know?

Idaho Power offers discounted home energy audits. Visit [idahopower.com/HomeEnergyAudit](https://idahopower.com/HomeEnergyAudit).

### Idaho Power Cash Incentives

To keep Good Energy in the room, Idaho Power offers cash incentives for many energy efficiency upgrades, like smart thermostats and heat pumps. Go to [idahopower.com/save](https://idahopower.com/save) to see what incentives you qualify for.



## Love the Light in Your Home

Wintertime means less daylight, which makes your indoor home lighting feel even more important. And with energy-efficient LEDs, having a bright and well-lit home is safer and more economical than ever. For instance, lighting a home for eight hours a day with thirty 60-watt equivalent bulbs (800–900 lumens) costs a mere \$0.20 a day, compared to the \$1.52 it would cost using incandescent bulbs. That's considerable savings! LEDs also last longer and provide more opportunities to customize lighting for your specific needs.

**Here are some tips on how to make the best use of LED lighting in your home:**

- Place LEDs where the light is on for long periods of time, like kitchens, living rooms, and hallways.
- Select the right bulbs for your needs. Consider the shape, brightness, color temperature, and color rendering index (CRI) of the bulbs.
- Place LEDs strategically to create a well-lit space. For example, use LED strips under cabinets to brighten your kitchen or LED accent lights to highlight a piece of art.
- Use dimmable LEDs to control the light levels in your home. Dimmable LEDs are good for rooms where you want to create a specific mood.
- Use LED strips and accent lights to add interest or create a focal point in your home. They can highlight architectural features, such as crown molding or fireplace mantels.
- Consider using smart LEDs. Smart LEDs can be controlled with a smartphone or voice command to turn on and off, adjust the brightness, or create a specific mood.
- Clean your LEDs regularly to prevent dust and dirt from reducing their brightness.
- Replace your LEDs when they start to dim. LED lights can last for many years, but they may dim over time.

## From the Electric Kitchen Favorite French Toast

10 slices of bread	1½ tsp baking powder
2 eggs	1 tsp cinnamon
1 cup milk	1 tsp vanilla
1 cup flour	¼ tsp salt

In a medium bowl, beat eggs and add remaining ingredients (except bread), mixing until smooth. Dip bread into batter and drain slightly. Cook on nonstick griddle until golden brown on each side. Serve with syrup or fruit topping. Makes 5 servings.



January 2024  
Breakfast

## Be in the Know... Winter Energy Use

Colder temperatures have a big impact on energy use. And when we have multiple days of lower-than-normal temperatures, electricity use can go up, causing customers to experience higher-than-usual energy bills.

Knowing how temperatures impact winter energy use can help prevent surprises on your bill.

### How Temperature Affects Energy Use

To maintain a consistent temperature indoors, your heating system must run more frequently in winter. The colder the weather, the higher the energy use. Spending time inside can also mean using more lights and electronics. To see how outside temperatures impact your energy use, visit [idahopower.com/myaccount](https://idahopower.com/myaccount) and click "My Energy Usage" from the Usage section of the menu.

### Winter Energy Efficiency Tips

- Weatherstrip and caulk around doors and windows to reduce drafts. Fixing air leaks is a low-cost and easy way to improve comfort and reduce energy use.
- Replace or clean your furnace filters to improve efficiency and help your system last.
- Install a smart or programmable thermostat to easily adjust your home's temperature based on your schedule. Visit our website to see if you qualify for a \$50 smart thermostat incentive.
- Seal ductwork using mastic or approved foil-faced tape to keep heated air from leaking into your attic or crawlspace.

For more energy-saving tips, visit [idahopower.com/save](https://idahopower.com/save).



Recipe selected from Idaho Power's Centennial Celebration Cookbook.



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