



SmartChoice Program

Rock Hill residential electric customers may see savings on energy costs through the SmartChoice program. SmartChoice offers cash rebates, low-interest loans and an “all-electric” billing rate.

SmartChoice Heat Pump Rebates

The City of Rock Hill offers rebates for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient, all-electric heat pumps to residential property owners.

Residential Heat Pump Rebate – for existing single-family residences

Program Requirements and Procedures:

- Rebate applicant must be property owner and an electricity customer of the City of Rock Hill, or a landlord who owns single-family residential property with City of Rock Hill electric service.
- The heat pump must be a minimum 16 SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating) and all-electric.
- The new heat pump must replace existing unit in an existing residence.
- Customer must agree to have a Smart Switch load management device connected to the heat pump. The switch and installation are free. The Smart Switch must remain on the heat pump for a minimum of one year.
- Heat pump must be installed by a licensed heating and air contractor. (The City does not install appliances.)
- The heating and air contractor must obtain a mechanical building permit from the City of Rock Hill prior to installation.
- Following installation, a City of Rock Hill inspector must inspect and approve the installation.
- Following inspection, the City will schedule the Smart Switch installation. The Smart Switch must remain on the heat pump for a minimum of one year.
- Customer must complete and submit a rebate application.
- Rebate application must include an invoice for heat pump to include serial number and model number of unit.
- Once the application is submitted, the city will process the rebate. Rebates are issued in the form of a check mailed to the property owner.
- Customer is eligible for rebate once each year. The rebate is \$400. Rebates may be given for up to two additional heat pumps at that time. The 2nd heat pump rebate is \$200 while the rebate for the 3rd installed heat pump is \$100.
- **A property owner can apply for the heat pump rebate or the heat pump loan, but cannot get both a loan and a rebate.**

SmartChoice Heat Pump Loan

The City of Rock Hill offers low-interest loans to credit-worthy customers for the purchase and installation of energy efficient all-electric heat pumps. Loans are available to customers with City of Rock Hill electric service who own their home. **To be eligible, customers must agree to have a Smart Switch load management device connected to the heat pump.**

Loan Program Requirements and Procedures:

- Loan applicant must be property owner of single-family residence and an electricity customer of the City of Rock Hill or a landlord who owns single-family residential property with City of Rock Hill electric service.
- The heat pump must be an all-electric, minimum 16 SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating).
- Customer must obtain a written quote from a certified, City of Rock Hill-licensed heating and cooling contractor. The quote must have the make and model number of the heat pump unit so the City can confirm the unit's SEER rating. The City does not offer heat pump installation service.
- The City recommends the customer get more than one quote in order to get the most service for their money.
- Loans are available at a 6% interest rate for up to 60 months (5 years) and the cost of purchase and installation up to \$7,000. Loan payments are added to monthly utility bills. If the customer moves out of City of Rock Hill electric service area before the loan is completely paid off, customer must pay entire balance of the loan at that time.
- Customers must complete a loan application and verification of employment form and return them to the City along with the written quote for processing, copy of driver's license and copies of two recent payroll stubs.
- The City will pull an applicant's credit report, check utility bill payment history and verify home ownership.
- The applicant will be notified by phone and/or mail regarding loan approval status.
- If the loan is approved, the heating and air contractor will receive a faxed or emailed verification of loan approval.
- The contractor is required to obtain a mechanical building permit from the City of Rock Hill prior to installation. Once installed, a City inspector must inspect and approve the installation.
- Once the unit passes inspection, the applicant must notify the City to schedule a loan closing.
- Following inspection, the City will schedule the Smart Switch installation. The Smart Switch must remain on the heat pump for a minimum of one year.
- At the closing, the applicant signs a contract, financing the cost of the written quote. The city then processes a check directly to the contractor for payment of the installation. The first loan payment will not be added to the utility bill for 90 days.
- **A customer can apply for the heat pump loan or the heat pump rebate but cannot get both a loan and a rebate.**

SmartChoice Water Heater Rebate

The City of Rock Hill offers a rebate to Rock Hill electric customers for the installation of an energy-efficient electric water heater.

Residential water heater rebates – for existing single-family residences

Program Requirements and Procedures:

- Rebate applicant must be property owner of a single family residence and an electricity customer of the City of Rock Hill or a landlord who owns single-family residential property with City of Rock Hill electric service.
- The water heater must be a minimum 40-gallon, electric water heater.
- The new water heater must replace an existing water heater in an existing residence.
- A City of Rock Hill licensed plumber must install water heater. (The City does not install appliances.)
- The plumber must obtain a mechanical building permit from the City of Rock Hill prior to installation.
- Following installation, a City of Rock Hill inspector must inspect and approve the installation.
- Customer must complete and submit a rebate application. The application must be returned to the City along with a paid receipt of installation from the Plumber. The receipt must be itemized, indicating the details of the water heater to indicate gallon size and all-electric status.
- Once the unit passes inspection, the City will process the rebate request.
- Rebates will be issued in the form of a check to be mailed to the property owner.
- Rebates are \$225 for the installation of a 40-60 gallon water heater and \$275 for a water heater larger than 60 gallons.

The Great Rate

The City of Rock Hill offers the Great Rate, an all-electric, energy efficient electric rate to customers who meet certain requirements. The Great Rate can lower winter energy costs.

To qualify:

- A minimum 16-SEER heat pump is the primary heating source. For example, if the customer has a two-story house and heats the upstairs with a heat pump and the first floor with a gas pak, customer is not eligible for the Great Rate. All primary heating sources must be at least 16-SEER heat pumps.
- An electric water heater is the primary water heating source.
- The heat pump must have a Smart Switch load management device connected. The City provides and installs these free of charge.

If a customer wants to inquire about qualifying for the Great Rate:

- Customer must provide the City with information on the make and model number of the heat pump so the City can confirm the SEER rating.
- Customer must provide the City with information on the make and model number of the water heater for confirmation of all-electric status.
- If all qualifications are met, the City will schedule the installation of the Smart Switch and place the customer on the Great Rate.

For more information, please contact Cameron Moore at 803-325-2640 or Cameron.Moore@cityofrockhill.com.