

Energy Efficiency Programs for Small Businesses Massachusetts

The System Benefit Charge (SBC) was established in 1997 under the Electric Industry Restructuring Act. The SBC is a small charge paid by electric customers to help pay for energy efficiency programs. The programs, which are administered by utility companies, are available to Massachusetts residents, businesses (large and small), industrial and low-income families. The energy efficiency programs were started in an effort to limit growth in electricity use across the state. Because of the widespread success, the Massachusetts legislature extended the SBC charge in 2005 for an additional seven years. A three-year proposal released by Mass Save calls for an extension of the SBC charge as well as other energy efficiency charges to help fund energy efficiency programs, including programs for electricity, gas, and green communities, in the future.

The SBC appears on customers' utility bills, so whether you are an individual paying for your residential energy usage or small business usage, you are paying the SBC. There are several organizations and companies that assist in the implementation of the program, including National Grid, NSTAR, Western Massachusetts Electric, Unitil etc. In addition to the electric companies, gas companies also offer similar energy efficiency programs.

Small businesses have the opportunity to take advantage of these great programs by contacting one of the below listed agencies/companies. The program offers business owners an opportunity to upgrade to new, energy efficient equipment at a very reasonable cost. All you have to do is get an energy assessment, which is absolutely free, and as a result the participating agency/company will pay up to 80% of the cost of the upgrades depending upon the program administrator. The benefits of participating, include lower energy bills, enhanced lighting to showcase your products, improved lighting longevity, and overall improvements to the appearance of your business.

Details on each of the programs are listed below, along with website information.

Electric Only Programs:

Cape Light Compact – Small Business Retrofit Program

- Will cover up to 80% of the cost to install qualified energy efficiency upgrades for small businesses with electricity demand less than 300 kW. The 80% incentive is capped at \$150,000.
- The financial incentives are based on total equipment and labor costs of energy efficient equipment.
- Small businesses interested in the program must complete an application.
- Visit <http://www.capelightcompact.org/ee/commercial-industrial-programs/retrofit/> for additional information, contact information, and an application.

Western Massachusetts Electric – Small Business Program

- Will cover up to 70% of the costs for energy efficiency upgrades to lighting, space cooling, or smaller refrigeration equipment.
- The program also offers a 0% financing option.
- Eligible businesses are those with an average demand up to 300 kW.
- Visit <http://www.wmeco.com/business/saveenergy/energyefficiencyprograms/SmallBusinessEnergyAdvantage.aspx> for additional information and contact information.

Electric & Gas Programs:

National Grid – Small Business Program & Direct Install Program

- Provides incentives up to 70% to cover the cost of installing energy efficient equipment for lighting, walk-in coolers, and other site-specific projects.
- Offers 0% interest financing for up to 24 months.
- Also, offers a Small Business Direct Install program for natural gas customers with incentives up to 70% of the cost of installation and 0% interest financing up to 24 months.
- For additional information, an application, and contact information visit <https://www1.nationalgridus.com/MASmallBusinessProgram>

NSTAR

- Offers a direct install program to small businesses whose average monthly demand is less than 300 kW with incentives up to 70% of the cost of energy efficiency upgrades.
- Offers multiple rebate programs for upgrading to high-efficiency heating equipment and devices.
- For additional information, contact information, and an application, visit <http://www.nstar.com/business/>

Additional energy efficiency programs for gas, electric, or both are available with the following providers:

- [Unitil](#)
- [Columbia Gas of Massachusetts](#)
- [Berkshire Gas](#)
- [New England Gas](#)

For a complete overview of all the energy efficiency programs available in Massachusetts and in your area, visit mass save at <http://www.masssave.com/>.