VANCOUVER HVAC PRO

# Rebates & Incentives

Heat pump and efficiency rebates available to Metro Vancouver homeowners, who qualifies, and how the paperwork works

4 Expert Answers from HVAC IQ

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Q1

## What happens to my rebate if my contractor in Abbotsford goes out of business?

That said, the rebate mechanics work the same way across BC, and the short answer is: your rebate is usually safe, but you may need to do some legwork.

### What Happens to a BC Rebate When a Contractor Closes

**The rebate belongs to you, not the contractor.** Both BC Hydro's Home Renovation Rebate and the CleanBC Energy Savings Program pay out based on your application, your invoice and your installed equipment. If you submitted the application yourself and the rebate was approved, the money comes to you regardless of what happens to the company afterward.

The risk is timing. If your contractor submitted the application on your behalf and then closed before the rebate was paid or before the required documentation was filed, you may need to step in and complete or re-submit the application yourself. Contact BC Hydro or Better Homes BC as soon as you know the contractor is gone and explain the situation. Program administrators deal with contractor failures occasionally and can usually tell you what paperwork they still need from you.

A few practical things to gather right away. Locate your original invoice showing the equipment model, capacity, serial number, installation date and the contractor's business name. Find the equipment's energy efficiency rating documentation (the contractor should have left this, or the manufacturer can provide it). If a rebate application was already submitted, get the application or confirmation number. If the work included a Technical Safety BC inspection, find the inspection certificate, since that proves the installation was completed to code and is often required for a rebate claim.

One complication worth knowing: if the contractor was a member of a required contractor network (BC Hydro's Home Performance Contractor Network, for example) and the rebate depended on that membership, you may find the program requires the installer to have been a member at the time of installation, not at the time of your claim. As long as they were a member when the work was done, you should still qualify. Confirm this directly with BC Hydro.

Warranty is a separate concern. The equipment manufacturer's warranty on parts typically survives the contractor's closure, but the labour warranty does not. A new contractor can service the equipment; just expect to pay for any call-outs that would otherwise have been covered.

Before your next contractor visit, have your invoice, inspection certificate, equipment serial numbers and any existing rebate correspondence in one folder. That lets a new contractor or a program administrator pick up where things left off without delay. If you need a local HVAC contractor to service or finish the work, Vancouver HVAC Pro

can connect you with contractors in the area to get things sorted.

Q2

## Which CleanBC rebates can I get for a heat pump right now?

The honest answer depends on what heats your home today and your household income, because those two factors determine whether you qualify at all.

### Who actually qualifies for CleanBC heat pump rebates in Metro Vancouver

**If your home is heated by electric baseboards or an electric furnace**, BC Hydro's Home Renovation Rebate is the main program: up to $4,000 for a whole-home heat pump system or $1,500 for a partial system, provided the contractor is a member of the Home Performance Contractor Network. This is a straightforward replacement-of-electric-heat rebate and does not require income qualification.

**If your home is heated by gas or oil and you are not income-qualified**, there is currently no general CleanBC fuel-switching rebate available in Metro Vancouver. Those larger switching rebates are limited to northern BC. This surprises a lot of homeowners, so it is worth saying plainly before you buy anything.

**If your home is heated by gas or oil and you are income-qualified**, the CleanBC Energy Savings Program offers substantially more. There are three income tiers, and at the lowest tier a central ducted heat pump replacing gas heat can attract up to $13,000. You have six months from the invoice date to apply, so keep every receipt and document from the installation.

A few details that affect every application. BC Hydro's rebate requires a contractor from its Home Performance Contractor Network, so check the contractor requirements for whichever program you apply to before booking. The equipment must meet the program's efficiency specifications, which change periodically, so confirm the exact model qualifies before you sign a contract. Rebate programs can also close or change amounts with little notice; BC Hydro and Better Homes BC are the authoritative sources to check the current figures.

The federal Canada Greener Homes Grant and Greener Homes Loan have both closed, and the Oil to Heat Pump Affordability program stopped accepting new applicants on July 31, 2026, so those are no longer options. Some municipalities have offered top-up amounts through Better Homes BC; check whether yours currently does, but do not count on a specific figure until you confirm it in writing.

On the installation side, a heat pump requires an electrical permit. The City of Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey, West Vancouver, Maple Ridge and both North Vancouver municipalities issue their own electrical permits; everywhere

else in Metro Vancouver it comes from Technical Safety BC. The City of Vancouver also requires a mechanical permit for a new heating system installation, currently $432 plus a per-kilowatt fee. If you are removing a gas furnace at the same time, a gas permit is needed to cap the line, and the permit authority for gas work depends on your municipality as well.

Before you commit, ask any contractor to put the following in writing: the exact make, model and rated capacity of the unit, confirmation it meets the rebate program's current efficiency requirements, which permits are included in the price, and the contractor's Technical Safety BC gas licence number if gas disconnection is part of the job. Then confirm your rebate eligibility directly with BC Hydro or Better Homes BC before equipment is ordered. Vancouver HVAC Pro can match you with local contractors at no cost if you want to compare a few quotes.

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Q3

## Are there rebates for replacing an old gas water heater in Port Moody?

Rebate access for a gas water heater replacement in Port Moody depends almost entirely on what you replace it *with*, not just that you're replacing it.

**If you switch to a heat pump water heater**, the CleanBC Energy Savings Program offers up to $3,500, but only if your household income falls within the program's three qualifying tiers. You apply within six months of the invoice date, so keep your paperwork. If your household income is above the threshold, there is currently no general provincial rebate for switching from a gas water heater to a heat pump water heater in Metro Vancouver. Confirm your eligibility at Better Homes BC before you buy the unit, because the program rules can change with little notice.

**If you replace a gas tank with another gas tank or a gas tankless unit**, there is no rebate available. FortisBC does not offer a rebate for a like-for-like gas replacement in this area, and BC Hydro's rebates apply only to homes replacing all-electric heat, not water heating.

**If you replace with a standard electric tank**, there is also no rebate currently available for that swap in Port Moody.

### What the job typically costs in Metro Vancouver

A standard gas or electric tank water heater runs roughly $2,000 to $3,500 installed. A gas tankless unit is typically $3,500 to $6,500. A heat pump water heater sits in the $4,000 to $7,000 range before any rebate, so the CleanBC incentive makes a real difference if you qualify.

A few things worth knowing for Port Moody specifically: both the gas permit and the electrical permit for this work come from Technical Safety BC, not the City. Your contractor should pull both permits and include the fees in the quote. Gas work must be done by a gas fitter employed by a Technical Safety BC licensed gas contractor; ask to see that licence number before you hire anyone. The contractor will also need to handle refrigerant if the new unit is a heat pump water heater, and only a person approved under BC's Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbons Regulation may do that work.

A fair quote for any water heater replacement should spell out the unit model and capacity, all labour, the permit fees, removal of the old unit, any venting changes (high-efficiency tankless units need a new PVC flue, not the old chimney), and the warranty on both parts and labour. If you're going tankless, also ask whether the existing gas line is sized for the higher BTU demand.

The decision really comes down to this: if your household qualifies for the CleanBC income-qualified program, a heat pump water heater becomes the most cost-effective long-term choice; if you don't qualify, a gas tankless unit is often the practical replacement. If you'd like a few local quotes to compare, Vancouver HVAC Pro can connect you with Port Moody area contractors at no cost.

Q4

## Does switching from an oil furnace in West Vancouver qualify for any rebates?

Rebates for switching from oil in West Vancouver depend almost entirely on household income, and the permit path is straightforward once you know which authority handles what.

### Rebates for Switching from Oil Heat

The most significant program is the **CleanBC Energy Savings Program**, which is income-qualified and offers tiered amounts based on household income. At the lowest income tier, replacing an oil furnace with a central ducted heat pump can attract up to $13,000. The amounts drop at the higher income tiers, and a household above the program's income limits currently has no general CleanBC rebate for switching from oil in Metro Vancouver; that rebate is limited to northern BC. You apply within six months of the invoice date, so keep all your paperwork. Confirm your tier and eligibility at Better Homes BC before you buy anything, because the program details can shift.

BC Hydro's Home Renovation Rebate only applies when a heat pump replaces all-electric heat, so it does not cover switching from an oil furnace. The federal Oil to Heat Pump Affordability program closed to new applicants on July 31, 2026, so that one is no longer available.

It is also worth checking whether the District of West Vancouver currently offers a municipal top-up through Better Homes BC; amounts and availability change, so confirm directly rather than assuming one exists.

**If your household qualifies on income, switching from oil is exactly the kind of job the Energy Savings Program is designed to support; if it does not, budget for the full installed price.**

**What the Job Involves in West Vancouver.**

West Vancouver homes vary widely, from older post-war houses with gravity-fed oil systems to 1970s and 1980s split-levels with forced-air oil furnaces. A contractor will need to do a proper heat loss calculation, not just size the heat pump to match the old furnace, because oil systems were often oversized. The North Shore runs colder than Richmond or Delta, so a cold-climate inverter model rated to perform at -15°C or below is worth discussing.

On the permit side: the electrical permit for the heat pump circuit is issued by West Vancouver itself (the District handles its own electrical permits). The gas permit authority is Technical Safety BC, but if you are removing an oil furnace and there is no gas involved, the main permit is electrical. If an oil tank is being decommissioned, that work involves a separate environmental process entirely, which is outside HVAC IQ's scope.

A fair quote should include the heat loss calculation, the specific model and rated capacity, the electrical circuit and disconnect, line set and outdoor pad, removal of the old oil furnace, and all permit fees. Ask whether the contractor

is certified to handle refrigerants under BC's Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbons Regulation, and confirm WorkSafeBC coverage before signing anything.

If your household does qualify, get the Energy Savings Program paperwork sorted before the install date; Vancouver HVAC Pro can connect you with North Shore contractors for quotes.

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**Disclaimer:** This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Vancouver HVAC Pro. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local permit authority (your municipality or Technical Safety BC) before starting any heating, cooling or gas project. Information is current as of November 8, 2026 and may change. Visit **vancouverhvacpro.com** for the latest answers.