

Sherburne Electric

Programmable Thermostat Rebate Program

As a customer of Sherburne Electric you are eligible for a \$25 rebate for each purchased and installed programmable thermostat.

Why is Sherburne Electric offering this rebate?

There are a couple of reasons. First, the old "mechanical" thermostats that many of you have in your homes are not only inaccurate (don't keep your home or room at the set-point temperature) but, they also cause a wide swing in the temperature (the room seems to get cold before the heat comes "on" and gets too hot before the heat goes "off"). This "overshoot" is wasted energy. Secondly, a portion of the PPA cost you see on your electric bill is the result of Sherburne exceeding the allocation of hydro power and having to purchase more expensive power from other sources. The Sherburne system peaks in terms of energy demand between 7:00 and 10:00 on cold mornings in the winter. A properly utilized programmable thermostat will enable persons that leave their house for the day to automatically lower the set-point when they leave in the morning, reducing system demand. A properly programmed thermostat will then bring the heat back on prior to the homeowners return. A lower peak electrical system demand will benefit all ratepayers (homeowners as well as businesses) and reduces infrastructure costs for Sherburne Electric.

Do programmable thermostats save energy?

Yes. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that programmable thermostats save one percent on energy bills per degree set-back (for eight hours). So, if you set your thermostat back by 10° each night, a 10 percent seasonal energy savings should be expected.

Misconception: *The energy consumed in re-heating a building is greater than is consumed when maintaining a desired level.* This misconception has been dispelled by years of research and numerous studies. Your heater's efficiency is nearly constant, so the total energy used depends on how much heat the house is giving off or loses. Fact: a cooler house gives off less heat than a warmer one. The seemingly long time your heater runs to reheat the house may feel wasteful but, it is canceled by the long time the heater is off as the house cools down. So, the longer your house remains at the lower temperature, the less energy is lost, and the more money you save. The difference is miniscule if you only shut it off for a couple hours, but it's a bigger deal if you turn it down for several hours or if for instance you leave for the weekend.

Are there programmable thermostats available for electric baseboard heating?

Yes. Electric baseboard heaters require thermostats capable of directly controlling 120-volt or 240-volt circuits. While they are more difficult to find, they are available. Don't let a store clerk or electrician tell you otherwise. Manufacturers include, Honeywell, CADET, and LuxPro.

Do programmable thermostats make sense for radiant floor heating systems?

Yes. The problem is the slow response time of the system which may be several hours. This leads some people to suggest that setback is inappropriate for these systems. However, many thermostats are "smart" and track the performance of your heating system to determine when to turn it on in order to achieve comfortable temperatures at your programmed time.

Alternately, a normal programmable thermostat can be set to begin its cool down well before you leave or go to bed and return to its regular temperature two or three hours before you wake up or return home. This may require some guesswork at first, but with a little trial and error you can still save energy while maintaining a comfortable home.

Is there a limit on how many thermostats I can claim for a rebate?

No, there is no limit to the number of thermostats. However, there is a \$500 per customer account limit that includes all other Village of Sherburne Energy Star rebates. (Total sum of all rebates to customer cannot exceed \$500.)

How will I receive the rebate?

Bring a completed rebate form, (attached or available at the Village Office) proof of purchase, and installation to the Village Office. Upon verification, the rebate will be in the form of a credit on your next electric bill.

When shopping for a programmable thermostat, be sure to look for the ENERGY STAR® label.

**** Sherburne Electric does not require, but recommends you hire a local electrician or heating contractor to install your new thermostat(s). ****