

Get it while you can

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for a tax credit of 10 percent of the cost, up to \$200.

Still breezy at your home? Insulation and sealing qualifies for 10 percent of the cost, up to \$500, but it must meet the model building code when installed.

There are specific qualifications, so it's important to ask your supplier or retailer questions. For instance, windows, doors and insulation must meet the 2001 regional requirement or 2004 International Energy Conservation Code, a model energy code for all buildings.

The tax credits are available for the taxpayer's principal residence in the U.S. Condo and co-op improvements are apportioned to the owners, and the tax credit can not be applied to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT).

There is a limit of \$500 for total home improvements, so it's important to choose to maximize tax breaks and minimize energy costs. The tax breaks do not apply to installation charges, so it's important to review the IRS documents carefully.



The Alliance to Save Energy reports that some states offer energy efficiency tax incentives to residents, although at this time, Missouri does not.

Hybrid vehicles qualify for tax credits too. The tax credit varies from \$250 to \$3,400, depending on the vehicle fuel economy and the weight. Buying more than one car? Each qualifies for a tax credit.

Some of the models that come with tax credits include the Ford Escape Hybrid; the Mercury Mariner Hybrid; Honda's Accord and Civic Hybrids; Toyota's Camry, Highlander and Prius; the Lexus GS 450h and the Lexus RX 400h two wheel and four wheel drive vehicles.

Dealers should have current information. The tax credits phase out as manufacturers sell 60,000 eligible vehicles. Taxpayer qualification requirements are available at the IRS web site, and tax advisors also will be able to help.

To get the tax credit, buyers will need to file IRS form 8910 with the federal taxes.

If the alphabet soup is confusing, there is help. Manufacturers will certify which of their products qualify for tax credits. Distributors, retailers, contractors and manufacturer's websites may also be resources.

But, as Janis wailed in 1970, just before the looming energy crisis and oil shortages in 1973 and again in 1977:

Hey, hey, get it while you can!