



Step-by-Step Guide
September 2025

The following guide is intended to help farmers obtain a rebate from Kane County’s Farmer Weatherization Rebate Program.

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Introduction

On June 10th, 2025, the Kane County Board unanimously approved Resolution 25-198, allocating \$20,000 from the Electric Aggregation Fund for the purpose of incentivizing Kane County farmers to weatherize their homes.

The Farmer Weatherization Rebate Program will offer two rebates based on the type of residential heating used:

- \$500 for Kane County Farmers using Nicor;

OR

- \$800 for Kane County Farmers using other residential heating sources such as propane.

The program is expected to benefit 22 to 36 farmers.



Weatherization 101

What is Weatherization?

Weatherization refers to the weatherproofing of a building's interior to protect against the outdoor elements such as moisture and temperature changes depending on the season.

Weatherization has several benefits such as:

- Lessening unwanted temperature changes depending on the season, improving comfort in the home year-round.
- Lessens the amount of energy needed to heat or cool a home, reducing the homeowner's energy bills.
- Improves indoor air quality.

Examples of Weatherization:

- Sealing Air Leaks (aka Air Sealing)
- Attic Insulation
- Replacing Doors & Windows

A 2023 study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy found that *sealing air leaks* and adding *insulation* to the attic can **reduce** a home's **energy usage** by **12** to **18 percent**.

Step A: Qualify for the Rebate

To qualify for Kane County's Farmer Weatherization Rebate, applicants must meet three requirements:

1.) Proof of a Primary Residence in Kane County

Applicants must live in Kane County and provide proof of residence through one of the following documents listed below:

- Illinois Driver's License
- Utility Bill*
- Bank Statement*
- Voter Registration Card

*: Dated within 90 days of submitting an application

2.) Proof of Occupation

Kane County staff will request a copy of IRS Form 1040, Schedule F (Profit or Loss From Farming), as proof that the applicant is a farmer. No copies or records will be made of any sensitive tax information; staff only need to visually verify the document to satisfy this requirement.

3.) DIY or Hire a Qualified Contractor (See Step B)

Step B: DIY or Hire a Qualified Contractor

Hiring a contractor to weatherize your home OR Doing It Yourself (DIY) is the final step to qualifying for this rebate. Here's the process for hiring a qualified contractor:

1.) Look up “Nicor Gas Find a Contractor” on your preferred internet browser or type in this website link:
<https://www.nicorgas.com/residential/find-a-contractor.html>

2.) Scroll down the page and click on the home box under the title “Help me find a contractor for my...”

3.) A dropdown box will open asking you to select an option under the “Select Equipment / Improvement” box and to enter your zip code. Select air sealing and insulation and type in your zip code. Then press search.

4.) A table will appear below the search box, listing up to 15 contractors in your area. Kane County encourages you to review this list and reach out to these contractors for the services they provide. Contractors commonly give out free quotes, which will help you compare costs and make an informed decision for your home.

5.) Once you’ve selected a contractor, plan to complete to weatherization by the end of 2025.

Step B Continued

Key Points to Remember for DIYers:

- Make sure you save a copy of the receipt for the weatherization materials that you buy. This will be important when applying for a rebate from Kane County AND the 25C tax credit (see page 15).
- Please take a before and after picture of the area that you weatherize. This is a requirement to prove you completed the weatherization yourself.
- If you wish to qualify for additional savings through Nicor's Energy Efficiency Program (Step E, page 11), you are required to hire a qualified contractor to complete air sealing or attic insulation on your home.

Additional Savings Opportunities:

- 25C Federal Tax Credit: The Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit (25C) offers a 30% tax credit on qualifying products that lead to lasting savings on your home energy bills. For more information on the 25C credit and how to claim it before its expiration on December 31st, 2025, see Step F (page 15).

Step C: Apply for the Rebate

How to Apply In-Person

- Head to:
<https://www.kanecountyil.gov/sustainability/Pages/Weatherization-Rebate-Farmer.aspx>
- Click on the “Schedule an In-Person Appointment” icon.
- Find and choose an applicable time to meet for 30min to 1hr. Staff will be available by appointment from 8:30am to 4:30pm.
- If you would like to speed up the application process before you meet Kane County staff in-person, click on the “Speed-Up My Application” icon. County staff will take the information you provide and fill out a paper application beforehand. Kane County staff will then email you a reminder of the documents needed for the in-person appointment.

The address for the in-person appointment is at Kane County’s Government Center (719 S. Batavia Ave, Geneva, IL 60134.) Please make your way to the entrance of **Building A**, inform a staff member at the desk of your appointment or take a right at the elevator and click on the doorbell on the left-hand side.

Remember to bring the documents needed for approval!
(Step A & B)



Step D: Receive the Rebate

Receive Rebate by Mail:

Depending on the day you submit the application for approval will determine how quickly you receive the rebate check in the mail. The Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District is the primary administrator of the funds and will disperse rebate checks to approved farmers every Friday.

Between submitting your application, getting approved and receiving your check in the mail, you should expect the entire process to take 5 - 12 days.

Receive Rebate In-Person (Only Available on Fridays)

Rebate checks are available to pick up in-person at Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District's (KDSWCD) offices at 2315 Dean Street, Suite 100, St. Charles, IL 60175.

Office hours are from 8am to 4:30pm.

If you are approved for an \$800 rebate, please have your filled out W-9 form ready for submittal to a KDSWCD staff member. Expect to receive a 1099 tax form from KDSWCD at the end of the year.

Frequently Asked Questions

1.) *Can I DIY my weatherization?*

a: Yes! Just make sure you complete the following items:

- Take before and after pictures of the work you complete;
- Complete at least air sealing or attic insulation to qualify;
- Provide receipts of the materials you bought (ex: insulation, caulk, weatherstrips).

2.) *How Long Will it Take to Receive my Rebate?*

a: 5 to 12 days.

- This will vary depending several factors such as what day you apply, when you get approved, and whether or not you elect to receive your rebate by mail or in-person. As a general rule, rebate checks will be mailed or available for pickup on Fridays at 2315 Dean Street, Suite 100, St. Charles, IL 60175.

3.) *How Long Does it Take for a Contractor to Weatherize My Home?*

a: A few weeks to a month.

- The time required varies depending on the contractor's present workload and inventory.

Maximize Your Savings

The remaining two steps are **optional**.

However, completing them can lead to a significant reduction in the upfront cost of weatherizing your home.

Step E: Nicor Rebates

Kane County residents who use Nicor Gas for their residential heating can also apply for rebates under Nicor's Energy Efficiency Program. The program offers a list of rebates every year, prioritizing home energy savings such as installing a smart thermostat, sealing air leaks, and adding insulation to the attic. In 2025, Nicor offered a \$250 rebate for sealing air leaks and an additional \$400 rebate to residents for adding insulation to their home. When paired with Kane County's Farmer Weatherization Rebate Program, farmers can expect a \$750 to \$1150 reduction in the overall cost to seal air leaks and/or insulate their home (see table below).

<u>How Rebates Reduce the Cost of Weatherization</u>				
<i>Work Completed</i>	<i>Initial Cost</i>	<i>Rebates Offered</i>	<i>Final Cost</i>	<i>% Savings</i>
Air Sealing & Attic Insulation	\$3,000	 \$500 (Kane County) + \$650 (Nicor)	\$1,850	-38%
	\$5,000		\$3,850	-23%
	\$7,000		\$5,850	-16%

Important Note: Nicor has exhausted their rebate funding for air sealing & insulation in 2025. We still recommend you proceed with weatherization this year, as you can take advantage of the Federal Tax Credit (see details below).

To apply for Nicor's air sealing and insulation rebates, the following requirements must be met:

- Hire a contractor through Nicor's "Find a Contractor tool" (see Step C for detailed instructions).
- Please ensure the work was completed within the year the rebate was offered.
- Apply within 90 days of installation or by January 31st of the succeeding year, whichever comes first. (Ex: Work completed on December 14th, 2025, would mean the application is due by January 31st, 2026).



How to Apply Online for the Rebate

- 1.)** Click on your preferred internet browser and type in the following website: nicorgas.com/residential/ways-to-save/rebates.html
- 2.)** Scroll down to the box that says “Steps to receive your rebate,” click on the red “Apply online” button.
- 3.)** You will be led to a new page for Nicor’s Energy Efficiency Program. Look below the title “Start a new rebate application” and click on the “Homeowner” tab.
- 4.)** You will be led to a new page asking you to enter the install date on the top right-hand corner of the page. Once you enter the install date, click the green “continue” button. You will then begin filling out the rebate application.
 - Remember to have the following documents at hand to help you fill out the application:
 - A recent copy of your Nicor Gas bill
 - A legible copy of the itemized invoice/receipt from the contractor.
- 5.)** Fill Out and Submit your Application to Nicor!

How to Apply for the Rebate by Mail:

- 1.)** Call Nicor at 877-886-4239 and request a hard copy of the rebate form.
- 2.)** Complete, sign, and mail the application and invoice and other supporting documents to the address listed on the application.

Frequently Asked Questions

Available on Nicor's Website at:

nicorgas.com/residential/ways-to-save/rebates-faq.html

1.) *How Long Does It Take to Process a Rebate?*

- 6 to 8 weeks once all the necessary documentation is received and approved.

2.) *I Had Several Upgrades Within a Rebate Application. Is it OK if I Mail them in the Same Envelope?*

- Yes. You may mail all documents for multiple products or services covered under a single rebate in one envelope to the address and offer number listed on your rebate application.

3.) *What is the Difference between the Installation Date and the Postmark Date?*

- Your installation date must take place during the program promotional period, January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025. Applications for rebates must be postmarked or completed online within the timeline listed after your installation, usually 90 days.

4.) *Where can I find my Tracking ID?*

- When applying online, your Tracking ID will be located on the confirmation page. If you apply by mail, you will not receive a tracking ID. Instead, you can check the status of your rebate using your Nicor Gas account number.

Step F: 25C Federal Tax Credit

Under the Inflation Reduction Act, the Federal Government is offering tax benefits to homeowners who make energy-efficient upgrades by the **END of 2025**. Capped at \$3200 (\$2000 for heat pumps & \$1200 for eligible weatherization upgrades), the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit (25C) lessens the upfront cost of weatherization, leading to long-term savings on energy bills, improved indoor air quality, and increased comfort.

How to Claim the 25C Tax Credit:

- 1.)** Prove weatherization upgrades were made to the applicant's primary residence. Applicants cannot qualify for the credit if weatherization was not completed at the owner's primary residence;
- 2.)** Prove the materials used for home weatherization meet certain energy efficiency standards:
 - Exterior Doors (\$250 per door, \$500 limit): must meet Energy Star standards;
 - Exterior Windows and Skylights (\$600 limit): must meet Energy Star Most Efficient certification requirements;
 - Insulation and Air Sealing materials (\$1200 limit): must meet the International Energy Conservation Code's (IECC) 2023 standards.

How to Claim the 25C Tax Credit (Continued):

3.) Fill-out and file IRS Form 5695 for the 2025 tax season. *The following items linked tomorrow is intended to be informational. For answers on how to fill out and submit IRS Form 5695, please meet with a qualified tax professional.*

- [IRS Form 5695 \(2024 Copy\).](#)
- [IRS General Instructions on Form 5695](#)
- [Tutorial on the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit](#)

Which Weatherization Materials Qualify for the 25C Tax Credit in Kane County?

To qualify for the 25C tax credit, the type of material used for weatherization has to meet region-specific requirements. Kane County falls under Energy Star's Northern regional designation, which prioritizes materials that excel at retaining heat.

1.) Exterior Doors



Technical Definitions:

- Glazing Level: Refers to the type and amount of glass a door possesses.
 - Opaque: Door with high opacity glass panels, making it difficult for light to enter inside the home.
 - ≤ ½ lite: Less than half of the door is taken up by a glass panel, allowing some natural light to enter the home.
 - > ½ lite: More than half of the door is taken up by a glass panel, allowing for more natural light to enter the home.

Technical Definitions (Continued):

- U-Factor: Refers to how well a door, window, or skylight is at keeping heat from escaping outside. The lower the U-Factor, the better that material is at insulating your home.
- SHGC: Short for 'solar heat gain coefficient', SHGC refers to how well a door, window, or skylight is at keeping heat from entering the home. SHGC is read between 0 to 1, the lower the number, the better the material is at deflecting the heat.

Energy Star Criteria For Residential Doors

Glazing Level	Climate Zone	U-Factor	SHGC
Opaque	All Zones	$\leq .17$	No Rating
$\leq \frac{1}{2}$ lite	All Zones	$\leq .26$	$\leq .40$
$> \frac{1}{2}$ lite	Northern	$\leq .28$	$\leq .23$

Look out for one of these labels on the door as it qualifies for the 25C tax credit! →



2.) Exterior Windows and Skylights

Technical Definitions:

- U-Factor: Refers to how well a door, window, or skylight is at keeping heat from escaping outside. The lower the U-Factor, the better that material is at insulating your home.
- SHGC: Short for 'solar heat gain coefficient', SHGC refers to how well a door, window, or skylight is at keeping heat from entering the home. SHGC is read between 0 to 1, the lower the number, the better the material is at deflecting the heat.

Energy Star Most Efficient Criteria for Windows:

Climate Zone	U-Factor	SHGC
Northern	≤ 0.20	≥ 0.20

Energy Star Criteria for Skylights:

Climate Zone	U-Factor	SHGC
Northern	≤ 0.40	Any

3.) Insulation and Air Sealing Materials

Insulation Criteria

Most any materials used to insulate a home qualify for the 25C tax credit. However, the caveat is the amount of insulation needed depending on where you live. In colder climates like Kane County, the amount of insulation needed is denoted by its R-value, or the measure of how well the insulation is at resisting heat traveling through it.

For a home with an uninsulated attic, qualifying for the 25C tax credit would mean that the attic must be weatherized up to R-60 or approximately 17 inches of insulation (dependent on the material used). If the attic already has 3-4 inches of insulation, then a contractor would add 11 to 14 inches of insulation, or up to an R-value of R49. Qualifying products include batts, rolls, blow-in fibers, rigid boards, expanding spray, and pour-in-place insulation.

Air Sealing Criteria

The materials used for sealing air leaks (weatherstripping, canned spray foam, caulk, and house wrap) can only be eligible for the 25C tax credit if that material comes with a Manufacturer’s Certification Statement. Energy Star defines the certification statement as “a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit.” To be sure the materials used qualify for the tax credit, check the contractor’s website for the certifications. If you are unable to locate those certifications, please reach out to the contractor.

How Federal Tax Credits & Rebates Reduce the Cost of Weatherization				
Work Completed	Initial Cost	Rebates Offered	Final Cost	% Savings
Air Sealing & Attic Insulation	\$3,000	\$500 (Kane County) + up to \$1200 (Tax Credit)	\$1,500	-50%
	\$5,000		\$3,300	-34%
	\$7,000		\$5,300	-24%