



VanderLugt ▪ Mulder ▪ DeVries ▪ Elders  
*Certified Public Accountants*

Energy Credits – what are they? How much? What qualifies?

First of all, let me say that this website -

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax\\_credits.tx\\_index](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index) has all the information you could need regarding what qualifies for a tax credit.

Secondly – I’m not going to talk about every single item that qualifies. If you’re interested in a solar water heater, for example, please call and talk to one of us. Those go beyond the scope of this article.

Third – when it comes to most common items that give rise to the credits – windows, doors and furnaces, the manufacturer has to certify that the item complies with the rules, and you must keep a copy of that certification.

Fourth – all items must be “placed in service” in 2011. They must be:

1. Purchased for your principal residence (not a cottage or rental); \$500 is the total credit you can claim on your 2011 tax return.
2. If you’ve already claimed at least \$500 worth of credits in prior years, you’re done – no credit is available in 2011.
3. Some of the more common energy improvements:
  - a. Circulating fan - \$50
  - b. Furnace - \$150
  - c. Air conditioner - \$300
  - d. Biomass stove - \$300
  - e. Windows/doors/skylights – 10% up to \$500 (windows are capped at \$200)
  - f. Some of the items least likely to be used – solar power, geothermal heat pumps – do not have this \$500 limit and don’t expire until 2016Please feel free to send me an email if you have any further questions.

The “fine print” is quite fine in many cases; our best advice is to make sure you get the “manufacturer’s certification” papers and provide us the details of what you purchased and we’ll be sure to get you the maximum tax deduction.

Jeff Mulder, CPA  
VanderLugt, Mulder, DeVries & Elders  
2900 28th Street SW  
Grandville, MI 49418  
[Jeff@vmde.com](mailto:Jeff@vmde.com)

00