

## Kitchener Green Housing Incentive Program (KGHIP) FAQ's

1. **Q: What is the Kitchener Green Housing Incentive Program?**

A: The City of Kitchener has partnered with Community Renewable Energy Waterloo (CREW) to offer a grant program that is intended to encourage homebuilders and homebuyers to invest in green buildings. Homebuilders will be entitled to incremental grants for every green home they build.

2. **Q: What are the benefits of building or investing in green homes?**

A: Benefits to builders:

- Qualify for the KGHIP grant;
- Increase durability and reduce call backs;
- As a builder, your work will be differentiated and more desirable to the consumer;
- LEED certification will prove that your work is better, and overcome consumer doubts of your green claims;
- Gain recognition for green building efforts – earn extra media attention;
- Join the growing green building movement

A: Benefits to homeowners:

- Lower energy and water bills
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- A more comfortable, more durable house
- Less exposure to mould, mildew and other indoor allergens and toxins
- Improved quality of life

3. **Q: What is LEED?**

A: LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a certification program and an internationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in several key areas of human and environmental health, including:

- Sustainable site development
- Water efficiency
- Energy efficiency
- Material selection
- Indoor environmental quality Building to LEED standards takes the current ENERGY STAR standard, required for all new building, to the next level -- incorporating improvements in environmental areas, including energy, water and air quality.

3. **Q: What LEED standards does a home need to meet to be eligible for this program?**

A: Homes that are eligible for the KGHIP grant must be certified through the LEED program's third party audit process, and must produce a valid certificate proving that they have earned this certification. See LEED certification levels in chart below:

The level of LEED certification will determine the amount a builder will receive from the Kitchener Green Housing Incentive Program as outlined in the table below:

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Performance Level	1 <sup>st</sup> home	2 <sup>nd</sup> home	3 <sup>rd</sup> home +
LEED Platinum	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$3,000
LEED Gold	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
LEED Silver	\$3,000	\$2,250	\$1,500
LEED Certified	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000
EnerGuide 80 (or ENERGY STAR)	Pre-required		

5. **Q: Is this grant available to homes built outside Kitchener?**  
A: No, the new home needs to be built within the boundaries of the City of Kitchener.
  
6. **Q: Where do the funds for this program come from?**  
A: Funding for the incentive program (\$500,000 over three years) was approved by Kitchener city council as part of a Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) application made by Community Renewable Energy Waterloo (CREW), in conjunction with the city's building division.
  
7. **Q: How does the incentive grant program work?**  
A: Residential dwellings built and certified to LEED standards will receive a financial incentive in the form of a grant. The amount of this grant is dependent upon the LEED performance level.
  
8. **Q: Who can receive the incentive?**  
A: KGHIP incentive dollars will be paid to the person or company whose name appears on the building permit: typically the builder constructing the home.
  
9. **Q: Is the incentive available to renovations, so long as the renovation project is extensive enough to be eligible for LEED certification?**  
A: No, at this point the incentive is not available to renovations on existing homes. It applies to new builds only.
  
10. **Q: When will homebuilders get paid?**  
A: The program's criteria specifies that the home must be completed and proof of LEED certification must be provided so that the homebuilder can be paid.
  
11. **Q: How can I participate in this program?**  
A: The city has made the process of applying for a KGHIP extremely simple for homebuilders.
  - Builder is notified of the grant each time they apply for a building permit.
  - Builder applies to the city for grant funding before building a new home; third-party verification of LEED is required.
  - City reviews application; if LEED certificate is valid and application is complete, City pays builder.

If you would like more information about this program, please visit:

[www.kitchener.ca/greenhousing](http://www.kitchener.ca/greenhousing) or Contact:

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