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## Trade Ally Newsletter - Q2 2023

### Air sealing and insulation rebate increase and updates

Starting this month, both our single-family and multi-family air sealing and insulation (ASI) offerings now **have expanded eligibility and some have higher rebates.**

#### Single-Family:

- **Expanded attic insulation rebates**
  - New tiered rebates based on the home's starting R-value which:
  - Provides higher rebates for homes with lower starting R value
  - Now includes homes with starting R-values between R15-R20

#### Multi-Family:

- **Bonus rebates are available from June - September 2023!**
  - Air sealing and attic insulation projects get an additional rebate of up to \$250 per unit if completed during this period
  - Bonuses available per unit completed on a first-come, first-served basis while funds last
  - Work must be completed by Wednesday, September 30, 2023 to qualify for the bonus
- **Expanded attic insulation rebates**
  - These tiered rebates follow the same R value guidelines as the newly expanded single-family offering
- **New measures have been added – exterior door weatherization**
  - Door sweeps and door weatherstripping are now eligible for rebates

If you are already an approved contractor for these closed network offerings and want more details, or if you would like to learn how to participate, please contact Emilie Street at 630.283.9711 or [estreet@resource-innovations.com](mailto:estreet@resource-innovations.com).

Check out our past newsletters for anything you missed!

[Past Trade Ally Newsletters](#)



### Summer is perfect for smart thermostats!

Smart thermostats are an easy way for customers to save money and energy in their home year round. There is a \$25 bonus rebate when a qualifying smart thermostat is installed with a qualifying furnace and this rebate can be used in conjunction with the electric utility provider rebate, where applicable. Check out our [Q2 thermostat qualifying products list \(QPL\)](#) for an updated list of over 110 models that qualify for a rebate.

## Commercial Custom incentives can meet unique project needs

If a business is looking to complete an efficiency upgrade that is not on our list of prescriptive rebates, it may be eligible for our custom offering. Big custom projects can boost your bottom line while helping customers save even more therms and money for their facilities. For more information, call 312.344.1569 or visit [nicorgas.com/custom](https://nicorgas.com/custom)

## On-Bill Financing rate change

Effective May 1, 2023, the interest rate for both the residential and small business/multi-family energy efficiency on-bill financing (OBF) offering increased from 6.99% to 8.74%.

Find updated residential and commercial fact sheets on the [Nicor Gas Trade Ally page here](#).

If you are a Contractor Circle member, but are not an OBF approved contractor, call 877.923.2665 or [learn how to become an approved contractor](#) so you can offer these low-rate loans that can be added directly to your customer's Nicor Gas bill.

## Training opportunities

### Commercial Gas Heat Pump workshop - June 21

**Date:** Wednesday, June 21

**Time:** 12 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual

As the gas heat pump (GHP) market rapidly expands with the release of new equipment, there is strong growth within the commercialized thermally driven heat pump segment. Most GHPs now offer heating efficiencies of approximately 140%, and simultaneous heating and cooling efficiencies of 300% are achievable. During this workshop, you will learn about: GHPs currently available for commercial applications, how they work, economics, case studies, and upcoming GHP products. Industry experts will review features and benefits of commercially available GHPs.

Please join a 2023 GHP workshop that Energy Solutions Center will be hosting for commercial and industrial customers, consultants, engineers and other influencers on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 from noon - 2:30 p.m. CST. [Register for the workshop here](#).

[Register now!](#)

### Building Operator Certification summer registration is now open

**Builder Operator Certification (BOC) Level I** classes are now open for registration with both online and in-person options. **BOC Level II** is also available for online classes. All Illinois residents pay \$1,400 for a BOC training, nearly \$300 less than the typical tuition fee. However, Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas and Peoples Gas customers may be eligible for a FULL tuition reimbursement upon successful completion of the training.

[See all class options](#)

## Contractor Spotlight

### Assured Energy Solutions protect customers with health and safety measures

Our Energy Efficiency Program is intended to help Nicor Gas customers save money and energy, but recently it also helped save lives.

Assured Energy Solutions determined a customer in Harvey qualified for an assessment through our Income Eligible offering. When Mike Lundford, an Assured assessor, performed the assessment, he noticed that there were no working smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, so he installed them during the assessment. A few weeks later, there was a fire at the home, and the detectors that were installed through this program alerted the occupants. **Everyone in the home was able to escape without injury!**

A potential disaster was averted because Mike identified the need and installed these devices. That investment potentially saved several lives and that is worth reporting and celebrating! **Thanks to our Trade Ally program provider, Assured Energy Solution, and their team, for helping make our customers' homes more energy efficient and safer!**



## Trade Ally resources and updates



### Join one of our closed contractor networks

We are looking for more contractors for the following networks:

- Air sealing and insulation (ASI) contractors (Single-family and multi-family)
- Duct Sealing contractors (Single-family)

If you are interested in learning more about the qualifications needed to join each of these networks, please contact:

Emilie Street  
630.283.9711  
[estreet@resource-innovations.com](mailto:estreet@resource-innovations.com)