



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

New Tax Credits

There are new federal tax credits for energy upgrades that just went into effect. They cover gas and oil furnaces and boilers as well as insulation and windows. Most of the areas covered allow for 30% of the cost of the upgrade. Insulation and windows allow a maximum amount of \$1200 and for heating and air conditioning equipment it is \$600. The requirements are very stringent on heat pumps and I still haven't found one brand for a central system that will qualify. There are a couple mini split heat pump brands that I have found that qualify.

To add confusion, the new rating system is now in effect and that requires heat pumps to be rated for a cold climate unlike the last system that required rating them at 47°. Two of the most efficient brands I know of just miss the mark by half a point but it's black and white so they do not qualify. The credits are in effect for 10 years and I will bet that many brands will find a way to meet the minimum requirement in another production year or two. So if you need an upgrade, it might pay to keep an eye on the progress of the heat pump manufacturers. I certainly will be doing just that because my customers would appreciate a 30% discount on a new system.

Insulation also qualifies for the credit so you could use the insulation credit to improve the efficiency of your home this year and then when some heating systems qualify you could replace the heat pump in a few years. There is a maximum allowable usage of \$3200 but that gives you almost \$10000 you can invest in your home and save roughly 1/3. Keep in mind that it is a tax credit not a rebate so if you don't pay federal income tax, you can't use it.

The obvious push is for more electricity use and less fossil fuel use. Doing so will make it harder to heat your home during a power outage unless you have a very large generator. A typical heat pump uses about 9000 watts to run but needs more to startup. The electric backup in a typical heat pump requires 10000 watts to operate. Shop for a 20kw generator to run just your heat if you have a heat pump with electric backup.

The requirements for gas and oil systems is not impossible to meet but is at the very peak of what the equipment is rated for today.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

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11 A.M. REAL ESTATE. Magnificent Stone 4 Bedroom Ranch Style House. Large Living Room with Fireplace, Dining Room, Kitchen, Sun Parlor, 2 1/2 Baths, Recreation Room with Fireplace, 2 Car Garage. Gas Hot Water Heat. Large lot, Town Water and Sewer. Walking Distance to Hospital and University. Tax Map: 5-2-1-2-21

TERMS: \$15,000 BANK CASHIER'S CHECK (payable to Jack Muehlhan Auctioneer Escrow) AT SALE. BALANCE AT SETTLEMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS. Insurable Deed, No Back Taxes, No Buyer Premium.

10 A.M. PERSONAL PROPERTY- Consisting of 2009 GMC Sierra 4 Wheel Drive Pickup Truck- Mason Collectibles-Lenox China-Japanese China-Hand Painted Wild Life-Champagne Glasses and Wine Glasses-Bedroom Sets-Crocks-Jugs-Dining Set (Table China Cabinet)-Orvis Travel Bag with Fly Rod Container-Trapper Basket-75"TV-Linens-Living Room Set (Recliner Couch Love Seat-TV Stand-Garden Trailer-Snow Thrower-Walk Behind Leaf Blower-Shop Vac-Lift Chair-Galvanized Tubs-Outdoor Patio Set-Greene Twsp. Fire Department Mugs-Household Items-Small Appliances-Floor Lamps-Ladders-Pressure Washer-Air Conditioners-Plus Much More!! For complete List call Robert Reinhardt Personal Property Auctioneer AU5161L at 570-856-4666 TERMS: CASH

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