

Title 05
Office of Budget & Finance
Subtitle 02 Tax Credits
Chapter 05 Energy Conservation Devices

Authority: Annotated Code of Maryland Tax-Property Article § 9-203 and §11-2-203.3,
Baltimore County Code, 2003

.01 Definitions

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms defined.

(1)(a) “Eligible Costs” means costs associated with the purchase or lease of any part, component, or accessory equipment necessary to operate solar or geothermal devices for the purposes of conserving energy used to heat, cool or provide electricity to a residential structure.

(b) “Eligible costs” include reasonable expenses associated with installation of the device according to acceptable industry standards.

(c) “Eligible costs” include only those expenses paid by the property owner during the 12 months before filing the tax credit application.

(d) “Eligible costs” do not include payment of interest charges for purchased or leased devices regardless of when these expenses are paid by the property owner.

(2) “Geothermal energy device” means an energy device that:

(a) Uses geothermal energy to heat or cool a structure or to provide hot water for use in the structure; and

(b) Meets national safety and performance standards set by a nationally recognized testing laboratory for that type of device.

(3) “Solar energy device” means an energy conserving device that:

(i) Uses solar energy to heat or cool a structure, to generate electricity to be used in the structure, or to provide hot water for use in the structure; and

(ii) Meets national safety and performance standards set by a nationally recognized testing laboratory for that type of device.

.02 Tax Credits

A. Granted.

The County may grant the owner of real property a property tax credit against the county property tax imposed on a residential structure that utilizes a solar energy device or a geothermal energy device for the purposes of conserving energy used to heat, cool or provide electricity for the structure.

B. Amount of credit.

(1) The amount of property tax credit authorized by this section is the lesser of:

- (a) 50% of the eligible cost; or
- (b) (i) \$5000 for a heating system;
(ii) \$5000 for a device utilized to generate electricity in the structure; or
(iii) \$1500 for a distinct hot water supply system.

(2) The amount of the credit applied in a tax year may not exceed the amount of the county property tax imposed on the property in that tax year.

(3) The credit also applies to owners of condominium units. In this regard, the credit is calculated in accordance with the unit's prorated share of the Amount of Credit noted in § B(1) of this regulation. Verification of the unit's prorated portion of the credit shall be provided by the original builder of the condominium development, rehabilitation contractor or Condominium Owners Association.

C. Limitation of the amount of credits grant by the County

Credits shall be granted in the order in which the applications are received by the Director. The total amount of credits granted shall not exceed \$250,000 per fiscal year.

.03 Administration.

A. Application for the tax credit shall be filed on or before June 1 immediately preceding the first taxable year for which the credit is sought. Condominium owners must also submit written verification of the prorated share of the condominium's share of the Amount of Credit as noted in Regulation .02.B(3) of this chapter.

B. Applications may be obtained online at the Baltimore County government website or from the Customer Service Section, Office of Budget and Finance, 400 Washington Ave., Towson, MD. 21204

C. The applicant shall provide copies of:

(1) Receipts of all expenses paid for the purchase and installation of the energy conservation device or system; and

(2) Any electrical, plumbing or other permits required by the county for the installation of the energy conservation device or system.

D. A credit for more than one device may be included on the same form with the total credit subject to the limit set forth in § 11-2-203.3(e)(1) of the Baltimore County Code, 2003, as amended.

E. An applicant may submit more than one application during a fiscal year with the cumulative credit calculated in accordance with Regulation 02.B(1) of this chapter. Subsequent applications submitted by the same applicant shall be reviewed in the order received by the Director.

F. Director to Grant or Deny.

The Director shall grant or deny the credit within 45 days after receipt of the application.

An application not granted by the Director within 45 days after receipt of the application shall be deemed denied.

G. Appeals.

If the Director denies an application under this Chapter or is deemed to have denied an application, the applicant may appeal the denial as provided in COBAR 05.02.01.02.

Administrative History

COBAR Title 05, Subtitle 02, Chapter 05 first adopted: May 6, 2014