



ENVIRONMENTAL  
ADVOCATES OF NEW YORK

# SUPPORTS



Key to Legislative Ratings:



Major Benefit



Substantial Benefit



Beneficial

## **S.1215 (THOMPSON, ET AL.) A.3080 (O'MARA, ET AL.)**

### **Summary**

This bill would amend New York State Tax Law, creating a tax credit for certain energy efficient home improvements. The amount of the tax credit would be 25 percent of the total cost of the installations, capped at \$2,500, and eligible measures would be defined by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The bill prohibits such installations from increasing the assessed value of the home for purposes of real property tax calculation.

### **Explanation**

According to NYSERDA, New York's residential sector accounts for more than 16 percent of its global warming pollution, as well as a substantial portion of the state's other criteria air pollutants. These greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed mainly to the consumption of electricity produced by fossil-fuel fired power plants, along with the on-site combustion of heating oil or natural gas.

New York has some of the oldest building stock in the country and ranks fourth in the nation for residential energy consumption. The state's older, less-efficient homes with poor insulation, drafty windows and aging furnaces and hot water systems produce much higher emissions than homes retrofitted with efficiency improvements. Measures such as NYSERDA's current Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard programs—including residential Energy Star HVAC systems, residential efficient gas equipment, Energy Star thermostats and duct/air sealing—can greatly reduce household energy demand and resulting pollution.

While many homeowners may be interested in energy efficiency improvements for both economic (lower power bills) and environmental (less pollution) reasons, cost concerns often act as a barrier to such action. Incentives such as the tax credit contained in this bill are a proven method for increasing such installations, and have the added benefit of stimulating the energy efficiency market and creating green jobs.

**Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.**

**Memo 08**