

# Homeowners get paid to go green

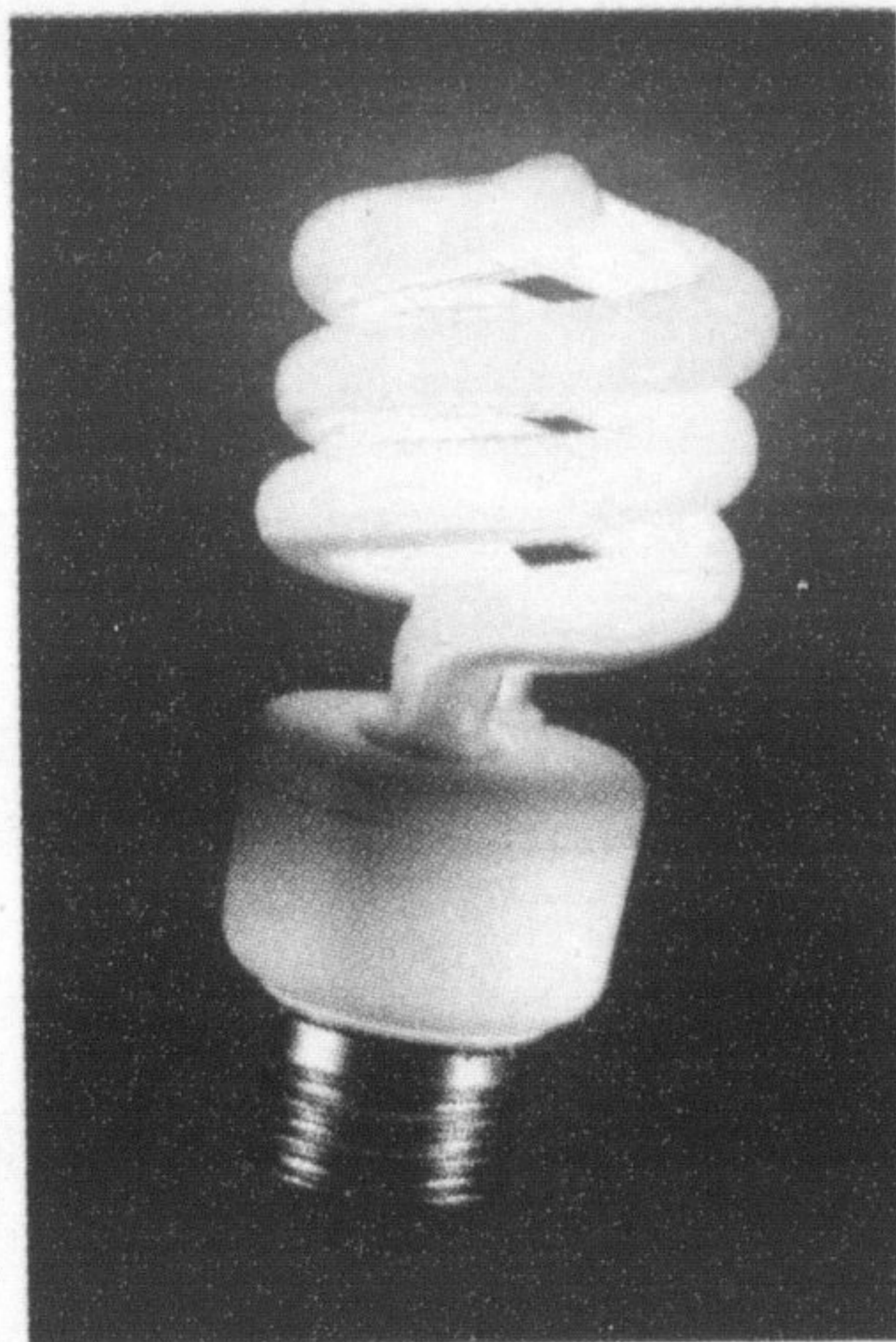
(NC)—Canadian homeowners will be big winners now that the federal government has increased the grants available for the ecoENERGY Retrofit for Homes; the financial incentives to Canadians who improve their home's energy efficiency have increased by 25%.

AmeriSpec Inspection Service is the largest provider of residential energy evaluations that identifies how homes use energy and where it is being wasted. AmeriSpec's licensed evaluators will show homeowners how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce heating and cooling costs, and improve comfort in their homes, while ensuring adequate ventilation for a healthy indoor environment.

To take advantage of the program, homeowners first must complete an assessment by a licensed energy evaluator who will determine the home's current energy rating. The service includes: a detailed energy evaluation of the home, a blower door test to find air leaks, a printed report that shows where energy dollars are being spent, recommendations on what homeowners can do to improve their home's energy efficiency and an energy efficiency rating label that shows how efficient their home is compared to other homes in their region.

Using the report's recommendations, homeowners have 18 months or by March 31, 2011 (whichever comes first) to complete upgrades. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available based on individual retrofit initiatives. The average grant is expected to be close to \$1,100. Homeowners can expect to receive their cheque within 90 days of the follow-up evaluation.

"Many provinces also have grants or rebates available where they will cover a



portion of the evaluation cost and/or offer additional grant monies," said Rob Skinner, business leader for AmeriSpec of Canada.

According to NRCan, once homeowners complete their required energy evaluation and make some or all of the recommended improvements; they can expect federal grants such as:

- Furnace upgrades – up to \$790
- Replace your domestic hot water heater – up to \$375
- Upgrade your central air conditioner to an Energy Star unit- \$250
- Retrofit doors and/or windows to Energy Star - \$40 for each unit

For the 2009 tax year, homeowners participating in the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program are eligible to receive the temporary Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) in addition to the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes grant.

"By completing all of the retrofits recommended by an AmeriSpec evaluator, homeowners should be in a position to decrease their average annual greenhouse gas emissions by about 4.6 tonnes per year, per house and they should also be able to also reduce their energy bills by 38 percent – a huge win for everyone," Mr. Skinner added.

Additional information on the ecoENERGY program is available online at [www.amerispec.ca/ecoenergy](http://www.amerispec.ca/ecoenergy) or call 1-866-284-6010 to book an appointment.

- News Canada

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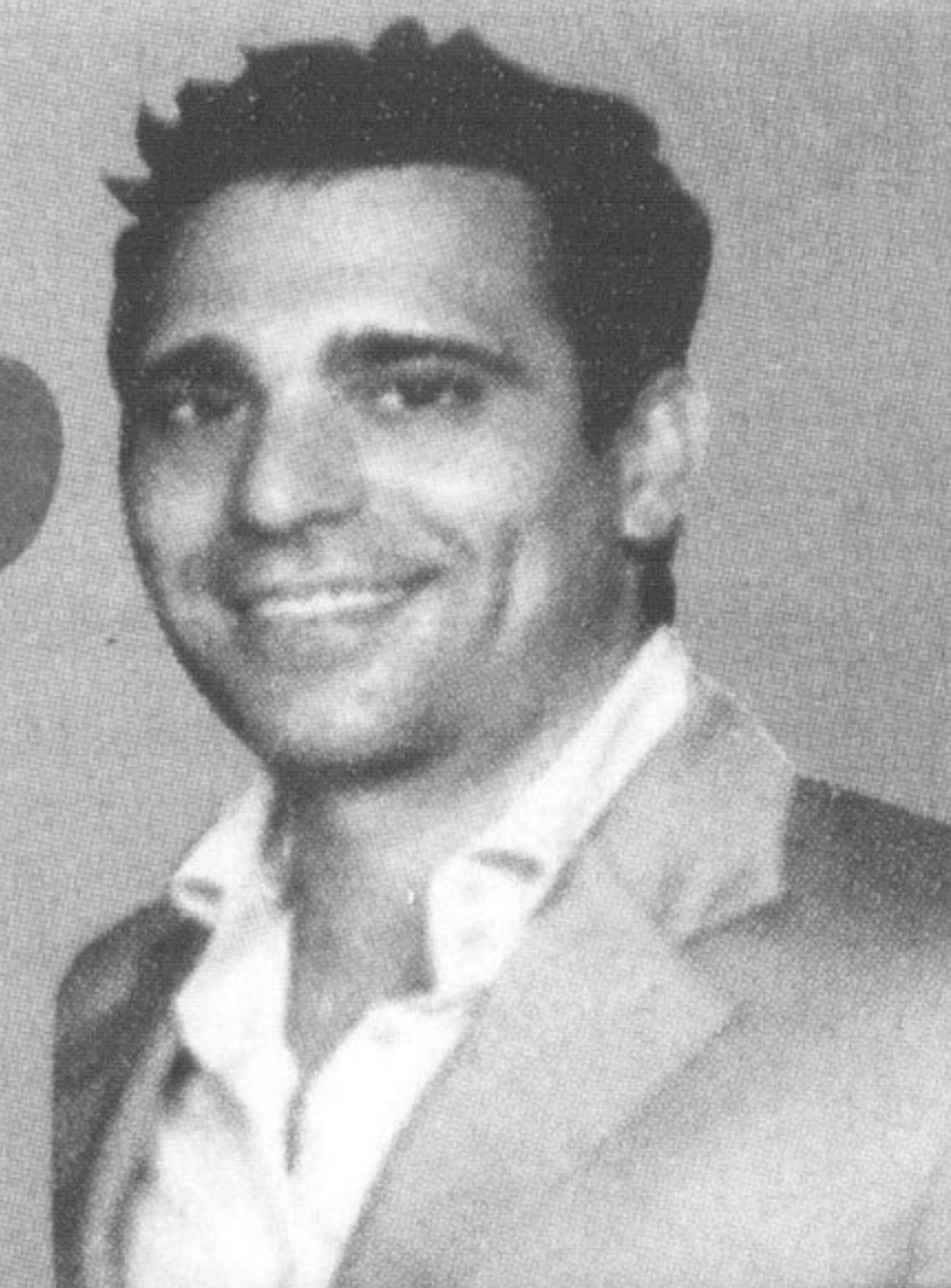
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