

701—42.47 (422) Geothermal tax credits. There are two distinct Iowa geothermal heat pump tax credits. Each Iowa credit is described in detail below. The Iowa credit described in subrule 42.47(1) is only available for years in which the federal credit provided in Section 25D(a)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code is also available. The Iowa credit described in subrule 42.47(2) is only available for years in which the federal credit provided in Section 25D(a)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code is not available.

42.47(1) Geothermal heat pump tax credit for years in which the federal credit is available.

a. Availability of the credit. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, in which the federal residential energy efficient property tax credit for geothermal heat pumps provided in Section 25D(a)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code is available, an Iowa geothermal heat pump tax credit, as described in this subrule, is also available for residential property located in Iowa.

b. Eligibility for the credit. To be eligible for the credit described in this subrule, all of the following requirements must be met:

(1) The geothermal heat pump must be eligible for the federal residential energy efficient property tax credit provided in Section 25D(a)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) The taxpayer must claim the federal residential energy efficient property tax credit.

(3) The geothermal heat pump must be installed on or after January 1, 2012, to qualify for the Iowa credit. If the taxpayer installed a geothermal heat pump and initially reported the federal tax credit for a tax year beginning prior to January 1, 2012, no Iowa credit will be allowed.

EXAMPLE: A taxpayer reported a \$6,000 geothermal tax credit on the 2011 federal return due to an installation that was completed in 2011. The taxpayer applied \$2,000 of the credit on the taxpayer's 2011 federal return since the federal tax liability was \$2,000. The remaining \$4,000 of federal credit was applied on the 2012 federal return. No credit will be allowed on the 2012 Iowa return since the installation was completed before January 1, 2012.

c. Calculation of the credit. The credit described in this subrule is equal to 20 percent of the federal residential energy efficient property tax credit allowed for geothermal heat pumps provided in Section 25D(a)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code. As of the publication date of the Notice proposing to amend these rules, October 12, 2016, the federal residential energy efficient tax credit for geothermal heat pumps is allowed for installations that are completed on or before December 31, 2016. Therefore, the corresponding Iowa tax credit will be available for the 2012 to 2016 tax years. If the federal residential energy efficient property tax credit for geothermal heat pumps is extended into additional tax years, absent action by the Iowa legislature to repeal the Iowa credit, the Iowa credit described in this subrule will continue to be available for each year in which the federal residential energy efficient property tax credit for geothermal heat pumps is available.

d. Claiming the tax credit. The geothermal heat pump tax credit must be claimed on Form IA 148, Tax Credit Schedule. The taxpayer must include a valid copy of the taxpayer's federal Form 5695, Residential Energy Credits, with the Iowa tax return for the tax year in which the geothermal heat pump was installed claiming the geothermal heat pump credit described in this subrule.

e. Refundability. Any credit in excess of the taxpayer's tax liability is nonrefundable.

f. Carryforward. Any tax credit in excess of the taxpayer's tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the taxpayer's tax liability for the following ten years or until depleted, whichever is earlier.

g. Transferability. The credit may not be transferred to any other person.

42.47(2) Geothermal tax credit for years in which the federal credit is not available.

a. Availability of the credit. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017, in which the federal residential energy efficient tax credit for geothermal heat pumps is not available, an Iowa geothermal tax credit is available for certain geothermal heat pump property installed in this state.

b. Definitions.

“*Qualified geothermal heat pump property*” means any equipment that meets the requirements of the federal Energy Star Program in effect at the time that the expenditure for such equipment is made and uses the ground or groundwater as either:

1. A thermal energy source to heat the dwelling unit of the taxpayer, or
2. A thermal energy sink to cool the dwelling unit of the taxpayer.

“*Qualified geothermal heat pump property expenditure*” means an expenditure for qualified geothermal heat pump property installed on or in connection with a dwelling unit that is:

1. Located in Iowa, and
2. Used as a residence by the taxpayer.

c. Eligibility for the credit. To be eligible for the credit described in this subrule, the qualified expenditures must be incurred:

(1) To install qualified geothermal heat pump property at a location in Iowa that is used as a residence by the taxpayer, and

(2) During the tax year for which the credit is claimed. Qualified geothermal heat pump property expenditures are deemed to have been made on the date the installation is complete. In the case of new construction or reconstruction, the expenditures are deemed to have been made on the date the taxpayer first began to use the structure as the taxpayer’s residence.

d. Calculation of the credit. The credit described in this subrule is equal to 10 percent of the qualified geothermal heat pump property expenditures made by the taxpayer during the tax year. This credit is not available during any year in which the federal credit may be claimed, and no expenditure used to calculate the federal residential energy efficient property tax credit may be used to calculate the amount of the Iowa geothermal tax credit described in this subrule. For information on an Iowa tax credit that is available for years in which the federal residential energy efficient property tax credit for geothermal heat pump property is also available, see subrule 42.47(1).

e. Multiple housing cooperatives and horizontal property regimes. In the case of a taxpayer whose dwelling unit is part of a multiple housing cooperative organized under Iowa Code chapter 499A or a horizontal property regime under Iowa Code chapter 499B, the taxpayer shall be treated as having made the taxpayer’s proportionate share of any qualified geothermal heat pump property expenditures made by the cooperative or the regime.

f. Claiming the credit. The geothermal credit described in this subrule must be claimed on Form IA 148, Tax Credit Schedule, and included with the tax return for the tax year in which the expenditures are deemed to have been made. In order to claim this credit, a taxpayer must also complete the form provided by the department to substantiate eligibility for the tax credit claimed and include any other information the department may require.

g. Refundability. Any credit in excess of the taxpayer’s tax liability is nonrefundable.

h. Carryforward. Any tax credit in excess of the taxpayer’s tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the taxpayer’s tax liability for the following ten years or until depleted, whichever is earlier.

i. Transferability. The credit may not be transferred to any other person.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.11I and 2016 Iowa Acts, House File 2468.