



INCENTIVES

ENERGY AUDITS & HOME IMPROVEMENTS with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

When you have a drafty home, you aren't just losing heat – you're losing money.

Improving the energy efficiency of your home not only keeps more money in your pocket, it increases comfort, durability, and indoor air quality.

Certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractors take an integrated whole-house approach to solve your home's problems and save you energy.



IS HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR RIGHT FOR YOUR HOME?

As Vermonters, we are no strangers to drafts, rooms that are too hot or too cold, and high energy bills. There are several ways to evaluate the energy efficiency of your home and to identify improvements you can make to lower your energy use and save money. Efficiency Vermont offers the following tools to help you evaluate whether your home is a good candidate for Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, a comprehensive energy efficiency home improvement service.

Home Energy Evaluation Form:

Efficiency Vermont Customer Service Specialists, trained in home energy evaluation, are available to assist you in completing a Home Energy Evaluation Form. This form will help you to identify inefficient electrical appliances and key areas of heat loss in your home. Call Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 to begin your evaluation.

How Energy Efficient is Your Home Worksheet:

You can easily estimate the relative energy efficiency of your home just by knowing the square footage of your home and how much fuel you consumed last year. Although this is not a precise account of your home's energy efficiency, the worksheet calculations do provide a rough gauge of whether there are important opportunities to improve its efficiency. To find out how energy efficient your home is, you can download this worksheet at www.encyvermont.com.

TAKING THE NEXT STEPS: ENERGY AUDIT AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS.

If your house, like most Vermont homes, has room for improvement, a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor can help you take the next steps. Efficiency Vermont supports a network of certified contractors who can help you understand your home as a system of integrated parts. These independent contractors are certified by the Building Performance Institute to perform energy audits, diagnose building problems such as moisture, mold and ice dams, and prioritize and install the recommended energy efficiency improvements.

A certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor can develop a plan tailored to your home. A typical energy audit includes the following services:

- An evaluation of the amount of air leakage in your home, the effectiveness of your insulation, heating system, lighting, appliances, and windows (Note: there is a fee for this service)
- Professional advice on ways to improve the comfort and durability of your home as well as solve problems and lower your energy bills
- Assistance in prioritizing energy saving home improvements
- Installation of energy-saving products such as efficient light bulbs and water conservation products

To find a contractor or learn more, please call 888-921-5990 or visit www.encyvermont.com/homeperformance.

Efficiency Vermont offers financial incentives to help Vermonters improve the energy efficiency of their homes. In order to qualify, the improvements must be completed by a certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor. Working with a certified contractor assures that the project results in real energy savings and is installed safely. Homeowners may also qualify for Federal energy efficiency tax credits.

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Step 1: Meet these minimum requirements in order to qualify for all other Home Performance with ENERGY STAR incentives. Many Vermont homes have the potential to reduce air leakage by 30% or more. In 2009, more than 90% of homes achieved at least a 10% reduction.

Energy Efficient Home Improvement	Qualifying Criteria	Customer Incentive
Minimum Requirement	Air leakage reduction \geq 10% as measured by a pre- and post- blower door test*	\$250 audit fee rebate
	Install all recommended health and safety improvements including mechanical ventilation, CO detectors, or other essential health and safety improvements	

Step 2: Complete additional energy efficiency improvements to increase your incentive. Not every home will qualify for an incentive in every category. Efficiency Vermont offers incentives for the energy efficiency improvements that save the most energy. In general, the less efficient your home was to start, the more opportunity there is to save.

Energy Efficient Home Improvement	Qualifying Criteria	Customer Incentive		
Air Sealing	Reduce air leakage as measured by a pre- and post- blower door test	20–35% reduction	\geq 35% reduction	
		\$500	\$750	
Insulation	Install insulation meeting the following R-value* criteria:			
	Location	Existing Insulation	New Insulation	
	Attic flat	R-value \leq R-16	R-value \geq R-49	\$0.50 per square foot of <i>additional insulation</i>
	All other locations	R-value \leq R-6	R-value \geq R-12	\$0.75 per square foot of <i>additional insulation</i>
R-values between 6 and 8		R-value \geq R-18		
	R-values between 8 and 16	R-value \geq R-49		
Heat Distribution Improvement	Install at least \$200 of duct sealing, leak repair, or other heat distribution improvements	\$100		
Heat System Replacement	Replace an inefficient heating system with an efficient new system. See your contractor for details on qualifying criteria.	\$500		

Step 3: See if you qualify for bonus incentives. Bonus incentives are for truly comprehensive projects that substantially improve the air tightness and insulation levels of your home.

Energy Efficient Home Improvement	Qualifying Criteria	Customer Incentive
Comprehensive Retrofit Bonus Package	Reduce air leakage \geq 35% as measured by a pre- and post- blower door test	\$500
	Install insulation in areas equivalent to at least 75% of the home's finished floor area (example: a 2000 sq. ft home could qualify by installing 1000 sq. ft of insulation in the attic and 500 sq. ft of insulation in the walls). Insulation must meet the above criteria for pre- and post- effective R-value.	

Step 4: Calculate your total incentive based on the completed energy efficiency home improvements.

Maximum total incentive per project	\$2,500
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*See Frequently Asked Questions for definitions.

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I find a certified contractor?

Log on to www.encyvermont.com/homeperformance and click on “Find a Contractor” to find a participating contractor in your area or call an Efficiency Vermont Customer Service Specialist at 888-921-5990 for assistance.

2. Does Efficiency Vermont provide energy audits?

No, Efficiency Vermont supports a network of independent, certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractors who perform energy audits and install the recommended improvements. Efficiency Vermont Customer Service Specialists, trained in home energy evaluation, are available to assist you in determining if your home is a good candidate for Home Performance with ENERGY STAR. Call Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990.

3. Why do I have to use a participating Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor?

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractors are certified by the Building Performance Institute to conduct diagnostic and combustion safety testing, detect carbon monoxide, and protect indoor air quality. Your contractor will test your home at the time of the audit and again when the improvements are completed to assure that the project results in real energy savings and is installed safely. Efficiency Vermont reviews the recommendations made by participating contractors and performs quality assurance site inspections on a percentage of projects.

4. Why do I need an audit when I know I just need new windows?

Your home works as a system of interdependent parts. A certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor will take an integrated, whole-house approach to identify the improvements that will solve your home’s problems and save you the most energy and money. While many homeowners assume that they need to replace windows, sealing air leaks and adding insulation often saves more energy at lower cost.

5. How likely will I be to qualify for incentives?

In 2009, more than 90% of Home Performance with ENERGY STAR projects met the minimum requirements to receive incentives. Furthermore, the average air leakage reduction was 33%, significantly above the 10% minimum requirement. After performing an energy audit on your home, your contractor will be able to provide an estimate of the total incentive your project would receive if installed as recommended. The actual incentive you receive will be based on the energy-saving home improvements completed by your Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor.

6. What is a blower door?

A blower door is a diagnostic tool designed to measure the airtightness of buildings and to help locate air leakage sites. The blower door test is conducted during the energy audit and again after the home improvements are completed.

7. What is R-value?

Insulation with a large R-value has a larger, better resistance to heat, meaning less heat is able to penetrate through it and escape. Therefore, the higher the R-value, the more energy-efficient your home.

