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Investing in Your Home's Energy Efficiency Pays Off Now and in the Future

- What to expect from Focus on Energy's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program -

Buying your home was probably one of the largest investments you've ever made. Now it's up to you to care for that investment and enhance its performance by making home improvements that are smart for you, your family and the environment. The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program can show you how to do this.

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR – How the Program Works

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is an energy efficiency program sponsored by Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative. The program has a network of partnering consultants throughout Wisconsin who have been trained to use the most advanced, state-of-the-art equipment to test homes, identify problems and recommend solutions. The program's qualified contractors and trade partners can then implement the recommended improvements, ensuring the work is done to Home Performance with ENERGY STAR standards.

Finding a Partnering Consultant or Qualified Contractor

The first step is to schedule an in-home evaluation with a consultant or qualified contractor who partners with the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program. Every consultant and qualified contractor listed on the Focus on Energy Web site has been trained by Focus on Energy and has agreed to uphold the standards set for Home Performance with ENERGY STAR. Each consultant and qualified contractor operates independently, running their own business and setting their own fees. Focus on Energy recommends calling more than one consultant or qualified contractor to compare prices.

Home Evaluation – Testing the Energy Efficiency

Once you've chosen a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR professional, they will arrange a time with you to go through a comprehensive evaluation of your home. This evaluation consists of an inspection of all systems in your home including testing the ventilation, heating and cooling equipment, air infiltration and insulation levels. Once the evaluation is complete, you will receive a home evaluation report that identifies any problems and recommends solutions.

Home Evaluation Report

The home evaluation report provides information on how your home uses energy and will likely include information on the insulation level in your attic, walls and basement, the air leakage of your home and may include information about lighting and appliance energy use. In addition, the report will list a number of home improvements that can be done to make your home more comfortable, durable and energy efficient. Improvements may include replacing a furnace, adding insulation or sealing air leaks. If you choose, as part of the evaluation, the consultant can perform a Home Energy Rating to prioritize the most cost effective improvements and provide information on the payback period based on energy and money savings if the improvements are made.

Financing Home Improvements

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program offers technical expertise, as well as Cash-Back Rewards or financing options to consumers who improve the energy efficiency of their homes. To be eligible, Wisconsin residents must meet two criteria: their electric and/or natural gas utility or cooperative must participate in the program; and the resident's dwelling must be a detached single-unit dwelling, mobile home, duplex or three-unit building.

Follow-up

After the recommended home improvements have been completed, your consultant will return to re-evaluate your home to ensure the contracted work was done properly — leaving your home more comfortable, durable and energy efficient. Your consultant will also fill out paperwork so you can receive your Cash-Back Rewards, should you qualify.

Learn More

Consultants and contractors partnering with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR have helped thousands of Wisconsin residents save energy and money on their energy bills. Making a small investment now will benefit you, your family and the environment over the life of your home.

INVESTING IN YOUR HOME'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY PAYS OFF NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

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To find out more about the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program, including details on financing, Cash-Back Rewards, eligibility requirements and names of consultants and qualified contractors who partner with the program, visit focusonenergy.com/getcomfortable or call (800) 762-7077.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is one of the Focus on Energy Residential Programs. It is designed to provide owners of existing Wisconsin homes a cost effective way to reduce their energy bills and enhance the safety and comfort of their homes. To participate, a homeowner must have a comprehensive home evaluation and work completed by consultants and contractors partnering with the program. To date more than 4,500 whole house projects have been completed under the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program. For information, call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

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