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Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

Program Overview

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is an energy efficiency program resulting from a collaboration between the nationally recognized ENERGY STAR Program and Focus on Energy, Wisconsin’s energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative. The program 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, residents must contact a qualified consultant and schedule a comprehensive evaluation of their home. This includes testing and measuring the house for air leaks, inspecting insulation levels, mechanical systems, exhaust fan ventilation, identifying sources of excessive moisture and evaluating safety issues like combustion appliance venting and carbon monoxide levels. The customer then receives a list of home improvement recommendations, as well as a list of qualified contractors who will do the work to Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program standards. At the end of the project, the consultant will return to retest the house and verify the work was completed correctly and that it corrected the problem.

Benefits to Homeowners

Homeowners can benefit from a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR evaluation in a number of ways.

- **Greater energy efficiency.** An optional computer analysis will predict energy savings for each potential energy improvement, which allows the homeowner to select the most cost effective measures.

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- **Added safety.** Testing combustion equipment, such as water heaters and heating systems, helps ensure they are operating safely and potentially deadly carbon monoxide exhaust gases are being properly vented directly outdoors.
- **Added durability.** By finding the sources of excess moisture and providing solutions to the problems before mold takes hold, consultants who partner with the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program help homeowners avoid potential health problems and building degradation.
- **Added comfort.** Home evaluations try to identify root causes of your summer or winter discomforts. By addressing insulation, air sealing and whole house solutions, drafts will be reduced, providing a more comfortable home.
- **Added value.** By solving problems and improving a home's condition, making recommended improvements can help increase a home's resale value. A potential buyer will be happy to see documentation that all systems are working properly and maximum efficiencies are being achieved.

Cash-Back Reward Eligibility

Homeowners interested in receiving Cash-Back Rewards from Home Performance with ENERGY STAR must meet two criteria: their electric or natural gas utility or cooperative must participate in the program; and the resident's dwelling must be either a detached single-unit dwelling, mobile home, duplex, or three-unit building. Homeowners can visit focusonenergy.com to determine eligibility.

Efficient Heating & Cooling Initiative

For Wisconsin homeowners, the decision to upgrade their home heating and cooling systems can be a difficult and expensive one. But with the Efficient Heating & Cooling Initiative, a sister program of Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, residents can make upgrades to furnaces, central air conditioners and boilers economically with Cash-Back Rewards. Homeowners will experience increased comfort, ultra-quiet operation and lower energy costs.

Locating a Consultant

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program has partnered with a number of independent consultants throughout the state to offer residents detailed evaluations of their homes. Each has received specialized training and is capable of providing reliable recommendations.

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Consultants partnering with the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program have had many years of practical, on-the-job building industry experience. They are well trained and regularly attend continuing education courses. Each consultant's primary job is to help residents solve their home performance problems. They can also help find contractors, write up work orders and follow up with a final visit to ensure the work was completed correctly. While all consultants perform comprehensive home evaluations, some offer additional services such as insulation and air sealing. Each operates under a set of principles outlined in the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Code of Ethics. Rates are determined by individual consultants.

Learn More

For more information about the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program, including details about current Cash-Back Rewards, eligibility requirements and the names of consultants partnering with the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program, visit focusonenergy.com or call 800.762.7077.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin. The goals of this program are to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, enhance the environment and ensure the future supply of energy for Wisconsin. Since July 2001, the program has helped Wisconsin's businesses and residents cut their annual utility bills by more than \$98 million – reducing their energy consumption by more than 811 million kilowatt-hours and more than 40 million therms of natural gas. For more information, call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary market-based partnership to reduce air pollution through increased energy efficiency. Today, with assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy, the ENERGY STAR Program offers businesses and consumers energy efficient solutions to save energy, money and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 8,000 organizations have become ENERGY STAR partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses.

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