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## **Warning Signs That You are in Need of a Home Energy Evaluation**

**MADISON, Wis. (October 2, 2006)** — While every house can benefit from a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program energy evaluation, there are some obvious conditions other than high fuel bills that indicate a homeowner should initiate the process sooner rather than later. Following are just a few signs that a home's systems, including the building shell, heating and cooling equipment, air infiltration and insulation levels may be in need of an inspection. Your local consultant partnering with the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program is familiar with these and many other operational concerns, and can address them during a whole-house energy evaluation:

1. Burn marks, rust, melted pipe insulation or scorching at the top or bottom of a gas water heater
2. Mold or persistent moisture on walls or ceiling, or a musty smell in the house, especially in the basement and bathrooms
3. The furnace turns on and off repeatedly
4. Attached or tuck-under garages with exposed ductwork or cracks and holes in walls and ceilings that are common to living spaces

These steps take a little more effort to detect. Use caution and protective gear where appropriate:

1. For gas furnaces, check the supply plenum (large duct above the furnace) after it has run for four to five minutes. If you cannot comfortably touch it, air flow may be insufficient. (Oil and wood units operate at hotter temperatures).
2. Check your roof for signs of melting snow or frost on early mornings. Compare yours to neighboring roofs. Partial or total melting indicates excessive heat loss.

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3. Check the attic for mold, ice or moisture on the roof decking, especially above the bathrooms and kitchen. Look for low levels of insulation, ductwork that is not properly treated or exhaust fans terminating into the attic space.
4. Remove a few pieces of insulation from the rim joist area in the basement and look for mold and moisture on the wood. Dirt in the insulation indicates uncontrolled air leakage into the house.

*Note: The absence of these signs does not mean there are no safety or operational concerns in your home. This list is designed to provide information about some obvious issues and help homeowners act accordingly.*

If you find any of these conditions within the home, consider calling Focus on Energy to locate a consultant in your area who can schedule a home energy evaluation through the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program. After the evaluation and recommended home improvements have been completed, your home will be re-evaluated and tested to ensure that the installed measures were done properly and that the home will be more energy efficient, comfortable, safe and durable.

To find out more about the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program, including names of consultants partnering with the program, visit [focusonenergy.com](http://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](http://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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