



..... **background material**

Media Contacts: Robyn Nowak / Tim Wirtz
Hoffman York
(414) 225-9520 / (414) 225-9522
rnowak@hyc.com
twirtz@hyc.com

Use at Will – October 2007

.....
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 comfort, safety, durability and energy efficiency of their homes.

To participate, residents must contact a partnering 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 partnering 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, rectifying any problems.

Benefits to Homeowners

Homeowners can benefit from a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR evaluation and subsequent energy efficiency improvements 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.

BACKGROUNDER: HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR

-PAGE 2-

- **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 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.

Financing Home Improvements

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program offers technical expertise, as well as Cash-Back Rewards and new financing options to consumers who improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Homeowners interested in receiving financial assistance from Home Performance with ENERGY STAR 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. Homeowners can visit focusonenergy.com to determine eligibility.

Efficient Heating & Cooling Program

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 Program, 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 energy evaluations of their

BACKGROUNDER: HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR

-PAGE 3-

homes. Each has received specialized training and is capable of providing reliable and un-biased recommendations.

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. 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 financing, Cash-Back Rewards, eligibility requirements and the names of consultants and qualified contractors who work with the program, visit focusonenergy.com 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 get 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.

###