

# HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENTS



## HOME PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

To make the most of your home's energy-saving potential, the best approach is to look at the home as a system. Every energy upgrade you make has an impact, and sets you up for greater performance and savings. But where to begin? You'll find the answer with a comprehensive home energy assessment, the first step on our Whole Home Improvements path.

The assessment helps you pinpoint where your house is losing energy so you can prioritize efficiency improvements and start saving money. Upgrades such as air sealing and insulation and HVAC replacement can save you approximately 20% or more on your utility bills, while increasing home comfort, safety, durability, and resale value. Plus you'll receive cash incentives for qualified improvements.



## 1

### PLAN AHEAD

During your home energy assessment, you should:

- Arrange to be home to consult with your Trade Ally.
- Expect the process to take 2–4 hours.
- Make sure there is clear access to mechanical equipment, fireplaces and/or wood burning stoves are extinguished 24 hours before the assessment, and pets are caged or out of the way.
- Plan to provide access to one or more years worth of utility bills or energy usage.



## 2

### WHAT TO EXPECT

During the assessment, your Trade Ally will perform the following services:

- 1 **Visual inspection** of your living space, attic, basement, or crawl space.
- 2 **Blower door test** to measure air tightness.
- 3 **Combustion safety test** to ensure mechanicals such as furnace and water heater are operating correctly.
- 4 **Infrared camera scan** (optional) to identify air leaks and lack of insulation in walls.



### COULD YOUR HOME USE A BOOST?

Every home can benefit from an energy assessment, especially if you're experiencing any of the following:

- *Drafty rooms*
- *Fluctuating temperatures*
- *Inefficient heating and cooling equipment*
- *Moisture and mold issues*
- *Ice dams*
- *An aging home*



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# 3

## AFTER THE ASSESSMENT

The Trade Ally will review your customized energy report with you, tell you about the available financial incentives, and help you prioritize which projects to move forward with. The Trade Ally will then present a contract with pricing for the work, perform the improvements, and later post-test to ensure everything is performing correctly. When the project is complete, you'll sign a Certificate of Completion.



### MEET THE ASSESSOR

Your assessment will be performed by a Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified Focus on Energy Trade Ally, specializing in the whole home approach. These are true energy experts who understand every aspect of home performance and how the many components—from the number of occupants to local climate, age of the home, size, and layout—all interact.

Your Whole Home Trade Ally will use energy modeling software to collect data and generate a customized report highlighting which improvements are best suited for your home. You can then pick and choose based on need, budget, and incentives.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1 What is a blower door test?**  
A blower door is a diagnostic tool designed to measure the air tightness of your home and to help locate air leakage sites. The blower door test will be used before the project is started, and again after your home improvements are completed. When requesting assessment pricing from the Trade Ally, you should ask if a blower door test is included.
- 2 How are energy savings calculated?**  
All eligible upgrades that save energy, such as air sealing and insulation, may be included in a package of upgrades to potentially achieve 10–30 percent total energy savings.
- 3 What is R-value?**  
Insulation with a large R-value has better resistance to heat, meaning less heat is able to penetrate through it and escape. The higher the R-value, the more energy-efficient your home will be.
- 4 What do typical energy efficiency improvements include?**  
Reducing drafts with whole-house air sealing, adding and improving insulation in the attic, walls, and byways, improving indoor air quality through ventilation, and other health and safety upgrades.

### DO MORE, SAVE MORE

If you're not quite ready for the Whole Home approach, the Heating and Cooling Improvements path allows you to earn incentives for individual upgrades such as a new furnace, boiler, or water heater.

Alternatively, if you do choose to make air sealing and insulation upgrades through the Whole Home Improvements path, you can achieve even greater comfort, savings and incentives by combining these improvements with heating and cooling upgrades.

### SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT

**Find a Trade Ally to assess your home at [focusonenergy.com/wholehome](http://focusonenergy.com/wholehome) or for more information call 800.762.7077.**

Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities' statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, helps eligible residents and businesses save energy and money while protecting the environment. Focus on Energy information, resources and financial incentives help to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that otherwise would not be completed.

