



Office of Energy
Development (OED)

Guide to Home Energy Audits

There are several ways to estimate your home's energy efficiency and discover what actions will save energy and lower your monthly bills:

Do it yourself!

To pinpoint some easy ways save energy, homeowners can conduct a “do-it-yourself” energy audit. Homeowners can check for air leaks, ensure they have the proper level of insulation, and inspect heating and cooling equipment.

Homeowners can also use online tools to gauge their home's efficiency compared to other similarly sized homes. For example, The ENERGY STAR [Home Energy Yardstick](#) provides a simple, online assessment of a home's annual energy use. You just need your utility bills from the past 12 months and 10 minutes of your time to discover where your home lands on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the most efficient.



Get a Professional Energy Audit

A professional energy audit can spot less obvious ways for your home to save energy. Your utility may offer free or discounted energy audits. If not, you can hire a home energy professional to evaluate your home's energy efficiency. Although an energy audit can cost around \$200-\$600, the assessment will show homeowners ways to save energy and money over time. An energy auditor will examine past utility bills, conduct a room-by-room examination of the residence, and conduct tests such as the blower door test.

Low-income Hoosiers across the state can receive free energy audits and energy efficiency improvements from the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#). Interested Hoosiers can contact their local [Community Action Agency](#).

Before Choosing an Auditor

- Ask if the energy audit will include a blower-door test, a duct-leakage test, a leakage assessment using an infrared camera, and a written report detailing the auditor's findings and recommendations.
- Ask about the auditor's training background and if they hold an energy auditor certification
- Get several references and contact them all. Ask if they were satisfied with the work.
- Call the Better Business Bureau and ask about any complaints against the company.

Common Energy Auditor Certifications

A Certified Energy Auditor (CEA) is accredited by the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE). CEAs complete an auditing seminar, pass an exam, and have at least three year's experience with energy management and energy auditing. Many CEAs also have engineering degrees.



HERS (Home Energy Rating System) Raters are certified by the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET). A HERS (Home Energy Rating System) Rater has passed a RESNET exam and performed several ratings supervised by a RESNET training provider. A HERS Rater is trained to do both home energy audits and [home energy ratings](#). Whereas a rating results in a score between 0-150 (the score shows how your home's energy efficiency compares to similar homes), a home energy audit will result in a prioritized list of improvements and a projected cost/benefit for each of the improvements. Most raters are trained and willing to do both; just be sure to make it clear which service you want. A directory of HERS Raters is available [here](#).



BPI Building Analysts are certified by the Building Performance Institute (BPI). A BPI Building Analyst has passed both a written and field exam and is certified to conduct blower-door tests, combustion appliance inspection and repair, air quality testing, duct testing and airflow testing. A BPI analyst needs to be recertified every three years. You can find a directory of BPI-certified Building Analysts [here](#).



Once you Select an Auditor

The US Department of Energy recommends making a list of any problems and gathering copies or a summary of the home's annual energy bills before an audit to help auditors establish what to look for during their inspection. The US Department of Energy's [infographic](#) shows what an energy auditor will look for in a home.

After the Audit

Keep a written report of the auditor's findings and recommendations, and ask the auditor questions about anything you do not understand. Some auditors specialize specifically in home energy audits and can refer to you other contractors to complete the energy efficiency work. Many auditors, however, are also Home Performance Contractors and can complete the energy efficiency projects for you. It is up to you whether you want to choose the same contractor as the one who conducted the audit or if you want to choose a different individual.

Use Utility Rebates

Most Indiana utilities provide [rebates](#) for energy efficient equipment and other home energy efficiency improvements. Check out your utility's rebate requirements to make sure the equipment you choose will be eligible for a rebate.