



Home Energy Audit Fact Sheet

What Is A Home Energy Audit?

- A home energy audit gives you a thorough picture of where you may be wasting energy and how to save money.
- An energy audit includes a visual and physical inspection of HVAC equipment and assesses insulation levels in the walls, floors, and attic.
- One of the most important parts of an energy audit is the diagnostic testing, which can include infrared scanning and/or a blower door test. (Note: Blower door test may not be provided at the time of audit and may need to be provided by a third party contractor.)

How Does It Work?

An energy auditor will walk through your home (in-person or virtually), review your bills, and possibly conduct an infrared scan depending on the time of year. Many utilities offer free or discounted home energy audits, and some offer incentives for implementing recommended measures from the audit. Contact your utility or visit www.NextZero.org for more information.

Preparing for an Energy Assessment

Before the energy audit is scheduled, make a list of any existing problems such as condensation and uncomfortable or drafty rooms. Have copies or a summary of the home's yearly energy bills. Auditors use this information to establish what to look for during the audit. The auditor examines the outside of the home to determine the size of the house and its features (i.e., wall area, number and size of windows). The auditor then will analyze the residents' behavior:

- Is anyone home during working hours?
- What is the average thermostat setting for summer and winter?
- How many people live here?
- Is every room in use?

Your answers may help uncover some simple ways to reduce your household's energy consumption. Walk through your home with the auditors as they work, and ask questions. They may use equipment to detect sources of energy loss, such as infrared cameras, and surface thermometers.

Energy Audit Report

- After the auditor compiles the data they will produce an audit report. This outlines areas in your home that may need attention and by making upgrades following a home energy audit. You can potentially save up to 30 percent on your energy bill.
- The auditor will also provide you with other energy saving references and fact sheets that pertain to the audit.
- Or check out the Home Energy Saver for an interactive do-it-yourself Home Energy Assessment Tool on the Home Energy Saver website (<http://HomeEnergySaver.lbl.gov>).

Learn more at www.NextZero.org or call the NextZero toll-free hotline at 866-306-0909.