

## Build Your Business with the Home Energy Score

Homeowners are typically not well informed about their home's construction or energy systems. Lacking good information, homeowners miss opportunities to reduce their energy use and associated costs. As a residential building professional, you can help provide homeowners vital information to keep their homes affordable and comfortable. By using the U.S. Department of Energy's Home Energy Score, you can provide your customers with a credible, nationally recognized product that is flexible to meet your needs.

### What is the Home Energy Score?

Like a miles-per-gallon rating for a car, the Home Energy Score is an easy-to-produce rating designed to help homeowners and homebuyers gain useful information about a home's energy performance. Based on an in-home assessment that can be completed in less than an hour, the Home Energy Score not only lets a homeowner understand how efficient the home is and how it compares to others, but also provides recommendations on how to cost-effectively improve the home's energy efficiency.

The Home Energy Score uses a simple 1-to-10 scale where a 10 represents the most energy efficient homes. The Score was designed to be easily understood and to tap into people's desire to improve their score or to outperform their peers.

Since the program launched in 2012, more than 400 Assessors have generated over 50,000 Home Energy Scores nationwide.



### Offering the Score is

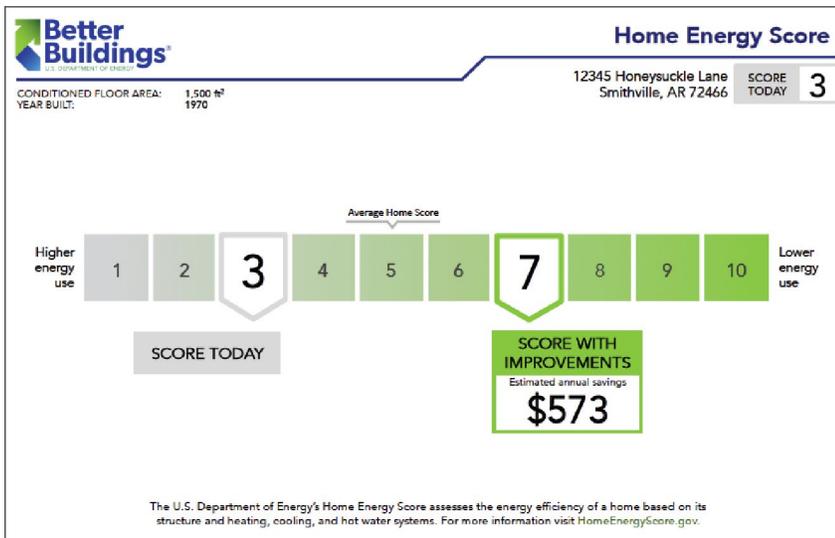
- ▶ **Fast.** Assessments can be completed in less than an hour in most homes. If completed in conjunction with another in-home assessment, adding the Score can require as little as fifteen additional minutes.
- ▶ **Affordable.** Online training and access to the Scoring Tool are available at no cost.
- ▶ **Simple.** The Home Energy Score can be integrated with other software tools through an application-programming interface (API).
- ▶ **Credible.** DOE supports robust training, testing, and quality assurance to ensure a high quality product.
- ▶ **Flexible.** Assessors can customize the Score's recommendations according to local preferences.

### Why Use the Home Energy Score?

- ▶ **As a certified residential building professional, you pre-qualify!** DOE's online training and testing are offered free and at your own pace. You can work under an existing Home Energy Score Partner in your area to gain access to these tools. All you need is a credential relevant to residential buildings - see our website for a complete list.
- ▶ **New financial incentives make the Score attractive for home improvements.** Under Fannie Mae's HomeStyle Energy mortgage loan, borrowers can finance up to 15% of a home's "as completed" appraised value for energy efficiency improvements by receiving a Home Energy Score. Borrowers in this program can also qualify for a stretch on their debt-to-income ratios for homes that score a 6 or higher, or for making improvements to a less efficient home. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has a similar policy that allows larger debt-to-income ratios for high scoring homes. These policies reflect the fact that more efficient homes have lower operating costs.

### Become a Qualified Assessor

Home Energy Score can help you reach more customers with a wider portfolio of services. The DOE is recruiting Assessors to lead the charge in encouraging home energy efficiency investments. Visit our website at [homeenergyscore.gov](http://homeenergyscore.gov) to locate a Partner organization in your area, or contact us directly at [assessor@sra.com](mailto:assessor@sra.com).



The **Score** page shows the home's current Score, its Score with improvements, and estimated annual savings.

**Better Buildings**  
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**Home Energy Score**

12345 Honeysuckle Lane  
Smithville, AR 72466

SCORE TODAY **3**

### Home Facts

The Home Energy Score's Home Facts includes details about the home's current structure, systems, and estimated energy use. For more information about how the score is calculated, visit our website at [HomeEnergyScore.gov](http://HomeEnergyScore.gov).

About This Home	Estimated Annual Energy Use
<b>ASSESSMENT</b> Type: Official Assessor ID: #1234567 Scoring tool version: v2016  <b>HOME CONSTRUCTION</b> Year built: 1970 Number of bedrooms: 3 Stories above ground level: 1 Interior floor-to-ceiling height: 10 Conditioned floor area: 1,500 ft <sup>2</sup> Direction faced by front of house: North Air sealed?: No Air leakage rate: 6,500 CFM50	<b>ENERGY BY TYPE</b> Total: 204 MBtus Score basis: 141 MBtus Electricity: 11,956 kWh Natural gas: 519 therms Propane: 226 gallons  <b>COST BASIS</b> Electricity: \$0.091 / kWh Natural gas: \$1.153 / therms Propane: \$2.171 / gallon Energy cost per square foot: \$1.45 / ft <sup>2</sup>  <b>DEFINITIONS &amp; CONVERSIONS</b> MBtu: Million British thermal units; generic energy unit kWh: Kilowatt-hour; electricity unit Therms: 100,000 Btu; heat energy unit Electricity conversion: 1 MBtu = 293 kWh Heat conversion: 1 MBtu = 10 therms

The **Home Facts** pages provide both the data collected during the home walk-through and the estimated energy use for the home.

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### Recommendations

The Home Energy Score's Recommendations show how to improve the energy efficiency of the home to achieve a higher score and save money. When making energy related upgrades, homeowners should consult with a certified energy professional or other technically qualified contractor to ensure proper sizing, installation, safety, and adherence to code. Learn more at [HomeEnergyScore.gov](http://HomeEnergyScore.gov).

**REPAIR NOW.** These improvements will save you money, conserve energy, and improve your comfort.

- ▶ **Air Tightness:** Have a professional seal all the gaps and cracks that leak air to save **\$110 / year**
- ▶ **Ducts 1:** Add insulation around ducts in unconditioned spaces to at least R-6 to save **\$43 / year**
- ▶ **Attic 2:** Increase attic floor insulation to at least R-19 to save **\$57 / year**
- ▶ **Ducts 2:** Add insulation around ducts in unconditioned spaces to at least R-6 to save **\$23 / year**
- ▶ **Ducts 2:** Have a professional seal all the gaps and cracks that leak air to save **\$74 / year**

**REPLACE LATER.** These improvements will help you save energy when it's time to replace or upgrade.

- ▶ **Windows:** Choose those with an ENERGY STAR label to save **\$61 / year**
- ▶ **Water Heater:** Choose one with an ENERGY STAR label to save **\$159 / year**
- ▶ **Electric Heat Pump:** Choose one with an ENERGY STAR label to save **\$32 / year**

The **Recommendations** page provides cost-effective improvements, divided into "Repair Now" (e.g. better insulation, air sealing, duct sealing) and "Replace Later" (e.g. replacing HVAC and hot water equipment with ENERGY STAR rated options).