

## Improve Home Energy Efficiency in Your Community with Home Energy Score

Promoting energy efficiency in homes is a cost-effective way to reduce energy use, costs, and greenhouse gas emissions in your community. The U.S. Department of Energy's Home Energy Score helps build homeowner and homebuyer knowledge of their home's energy use and potential for energy improvements. By offering the Home Energy Score, you can help residents understand and improve home energy performance through this nationally recognized, government-sponsored tool.

### What is the Home Energy Score?

Like a miles-per-gallon rating for vehicles, the Home Energy Score allows homeowners and homebuyers to compare the efficiency of different homes regardless of location and occupancy. Using a simple 1-to-10 scale, the Score was designed to be easy to understand and to tap into people's desire to improve their score and outperform their peers. Each Home Energy Score report also provides a list of recommended energy improvements and their estimated cost savings to help take the guesswork out of determining smart and cost-effective investments.

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



### Key Features of the Home Energy Score

- ▶ An energy efficiency score based on the home's envelope and heating, cooling, and hot water systems
- ▶ A total energy use estimate, as well as estimates by fuel type assuming standard operating conditions and occupant behavior
- ▶ Recommendations for cost-effective improvements and associated annual cost savings estimates
- ▶ A "Score with Improvements" reflecting the home's expected score if cost-effective improvements are implemented

**"The Home Energy Score is a low input tool with high output. I'm happy it is provided free and with the DOE's logo on it."**

— Benjamin K. from Community Housing Partners, Virginia

utilities, state and local governments, and real estate professionals recognize the value of using the Home Energy Score to curb residential energy use and to serve as a reliable metric for energy performance.

### Ways to Offer the Home Energy Score

Our non-profit Partners around the country have offered the Home Energy Score in a variety of ways, including the following:

- ▶ Bundled item within a standard energy audit or home inspection package
- ▶ Standalone product offered to homeowners for a fee
- ▶ Free product to gain leads for home improvement
- ▶ Service required for homeowners to qualify for certain rebates and cash-back programs
- ▶ Evaluative tool conducted before and after efficiency upgrades to show homeowners the impact of their investments

The DOE gives Partners flexibility to offer the Score the way that makes sense for their priorities.

### As a DOE Partner, 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.** The web-based Scoring Tool and training are available at no cost to DOE's Partners and Assessors.
- ▶ **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.** Partners can customize the Score's recommendations and educational materials according to local preferences.

"We see the Home Energy Score as a tool in support of our mission to accelerate the creation of better buildings. Building asset ratings are an important market actor in disclosing energy savings to the public and building professionals."

— MacKenzie W. from Earth Advantage, Oregon

### How can the Home Energy Scoring Tool integrate with other energy audit or management software?

DOE offers an Application Programming Interface (API) to enable third parties to build applications that can exchange data with the Home Energy Scoring Tool. This allows other software tools to seamlessly submit data without double entry of information.

### Partner Requirements

In order to offer the Home Energy Score, Partners must be able to accomplish the following:

- ▶ Manage onboarding, training, and mentoring of Home Energy Score Assessors participating in your program, or contract with another organization to manage these areas.
- ▶ Score a minimum of 500 homes in the first year. After the first year, you will work with the DOE to establish annual numeric goals with the intent of expanding the program.
- ▶ Conduct quality assurance reviews on a random sample of scored homes, and provide mentoring for newly trained assessors.
- ▶ Participate in regular calls and webinars with DOE and other Partners, and collaborate with DOE on delivery and continuous improvement of the program.
- ▶ Market the Home Energy Score to single-family homes and townhomes in your jurisdiction.

If you think you can meet these requirements, then visit our website or email us to fill out a Partner Implementation Plan and learn more.



### Become a Home Energy Score Partner

DOE is recruiting Partners throughout the country to offer the Home Energy Score and help communities reduce costs through home energy efficiency upgrades. This helps residents save money and can help your area meet state and local energy efficiency goals.

To learn more about joining the Home Energy Score program, visit our website at [homeenergyscore.gov](http://homeenergyscore.gov) or email us at [homeenergyscore@ee.doe.gov](mailto:homeenergyscore@ee.doe.gov) with "Interested Partner" in the subject line.