

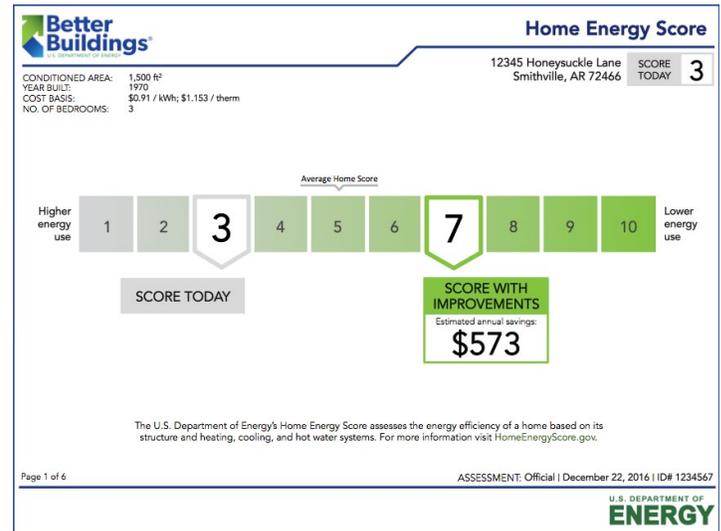
Add Efficiency Services to Your Members' Portfolios with Home Energy Score

Across the country, homeowners and homebuyers are increasingly becoming interested in home energy performance. By offering the Home Energy Score, residential building professionals – including HVAC contractors, energy auditors, and home inspectors – can better serve customers through this nationally tested and 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 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.



“Having the DOE’s logo on the Home Energy Score is a selling point for us and our members.”

— Ben G. from InterNACHI, Colorado

Home Energy Score and Real Estate

Home Energy Score data can feed into multiple listing services (MLSs). DOE and its partners are working to make the Home Energy Score more accessible to homebuyers, real estate agents, appraisers, and lenders. By offering the Home Energy Score, members of your trade association can become involved in this growing marketplace for home energy efficiency information.

New financial incentives make the Score more attractive to homebuyers. 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.

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.** 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 and accompanying educational materials according to local preferences.

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.

- ▶ 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

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, visit our website or email us to fill out a Partner Implementation Plan or learn more.

"Home Energy Score has the best chance to move the home energy efficiency market forward. It can be done quickly and easily."

— John J. from BPI, Albany, NY

Become a Home Energy Score Partner

DOE is recruiting Partners throughout the country to offer the Home Energy Score and help drive investments in home energy-efficiency upgrades. This tool can help your members improve their energy-efficiency services and reach more customers with a wider portfolio. To learn more about joining the Home Energy Score program, visit our website at homeenergyscore.gov or email us at homeenergyscore@ee.doe.gov with "Interested Partner" in the subject line.