

Home Energy Score: A Game Changer for Labeling & Disclosure

Across the country, state and local governments are turning to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Home Energy Score™ as a low-cost way to improve consumer awareness of and spur investment in energy efficiency. Home Energy Score is a natural fit to simplify data collection and provide reliable information comparing energy efficiency across homes.

What is the Home Energy Score?

Like a miles-per-gallon rating for homes, the Home Energy Score is an easy-to-understand rating designed to give homeowners, homebuyers, and renters insights about a home's energy performance. Using a simple 1-to-10 scale, the Score was designed to be easy to understand and tap into people's desire to improve their score and outperform their peers. Based on a standard, in-home assessment of a home's energy-related assets, the Home Energy Score Report provides various pieces of information that can be included in home listings and used with home financing products. The Report also includes energy efficiency recommendations that would improve the Score through cost-effective investments.

Offering the Home Energy Score is –

- ▶ **FAST.** Takes less than one hour in most homes.
- ▶ **AFFORDABLE.** Free Scoring Tool and training to keep costs low.
- ▶ **SIMPLE.** Easy to understand 1-to-10 scale.
- ▶ **CREDIBLE.** Created through robust testing and analysis.
- ▶ **FLEXIBLE.** Available through a variety of software and programs.

Why Use the Home Energy Score?

It is consistent across markets. DOE provides free, online training and testing for building professionals to become Home Energy Score Certified Assessors™. By normalizing across climates and using standard

assumptions, any home in the U.S. can be scored and compared in terms of energy performance.

It balances national reliability with local flexibility. The Home Energy Score applies a standard, transparent methodology to assessing energy use, allowing homes to be compared fairly. Partners also have flexibility to customize recommendations and label information to local market conditions.



“Portland can achieve its energy goals only by significantly accelerating energy efficiency in the residential sector. Home Energy Score conveys previously unknown but critical information to both buyers and sellers of homes, which helps lower energy bills, increase housing affordability, and make Portland homes more comfortable and livable.”

—Andria J., City of Portland, Oregon

How Can the Home Energy Scoring Tool Integrate with Other Software?

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

AjO • Design Avenue • EnergySavvy • Energy eScore by Home Energy Score PDX • Franklin Energy Services • Home Inspector Pro • ID Energy • OptiMiser • Pearl Certification • Pivotal Energy Solutions • Snugg Pro • United Illuminating Company & Eversource Energy



Goal: Implement a Home Energy Labeling Policy

Provide energy information to both buyers and sellers to enable investment in energy-efficient homes. Efficient homes are more comfortable and livable, and can help governments meet local energy goals.

Home Energy Score™

Shows efficiency of home energy features and recommends upgrades.

SEED Platform™

Combines and matches datasets to enable organization and analysis.

Real Estate Portals

e.g., Multiple Listing Service, data aggregators, Redfin, Zillow, Realtor.com, Trulia, etc.

Appraisal & Financing

Measurable estimated lower cost of home ownership associated with efficient homes.

Market Impacts

Trackable data on efficiency payback, sales premium, time on market, etc.

Improved Housing Stock



- ✓ Gather pre- and post-upgrade data to measure overall impacts
- ✓ Fix market failure by giving real estate professionals actionable energy information to appraise home value and provide financing
- ✓ Help residents achieve better quality of life associated with more efficient homes
- ✓ Put more money in the pockets of residents as they save on energy costs

Talk to Our Partners! Home Energy Score State and Local Partnerships & Implementors Across the Country

- ▶ **City of Carlsbad, California.** ID Energy
- ▶ **City of Columbia, Missouri.** Columbia Water & Light
- ▶ **City of Eugene, Oregon.** Eugene Water & Electric Board
- ▶ **City of Fort Collins, Colorado.** Fort Collins Utilities
- ▶ **City of Milwaukie, Oregon.** Earth Advantage • Oregon Department of Energy
- ▶ **City of Portland, Oregon.** Bureau of Planning & Sustainability • Earth Advantage
- ▶ **San Francisco Bay Area.** Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) • City of Berkeley • Frontier Energy • StopWaste
- ▶ **State of Connecticut.** Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) • Eversource • United Illuminating Co.
- ▶ **State of Missouri.** Earth Advantage • Missouri Department of Economic Development
- ▶ **State of New Hampshire.** GDS Associates • New Hampshire Office of Energy & Planning
- ▶ **State of New York.** Center for Sustainable Energy • New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- ▶ **State of Oregon.** Earth Advantage • Oregon Department of Energy

Learn More & Contact Us

Visit our website at homeenergyscore.gov to learn more and find out who offers the Home Energy Score in your area. Check out the “Homeowner Resources” link or “Home Energy Score for Real Estate Professionals” page on the website. Can’t find what you are looking for? Email us at homeenergyscore@ee.doe.gov to get in touch.