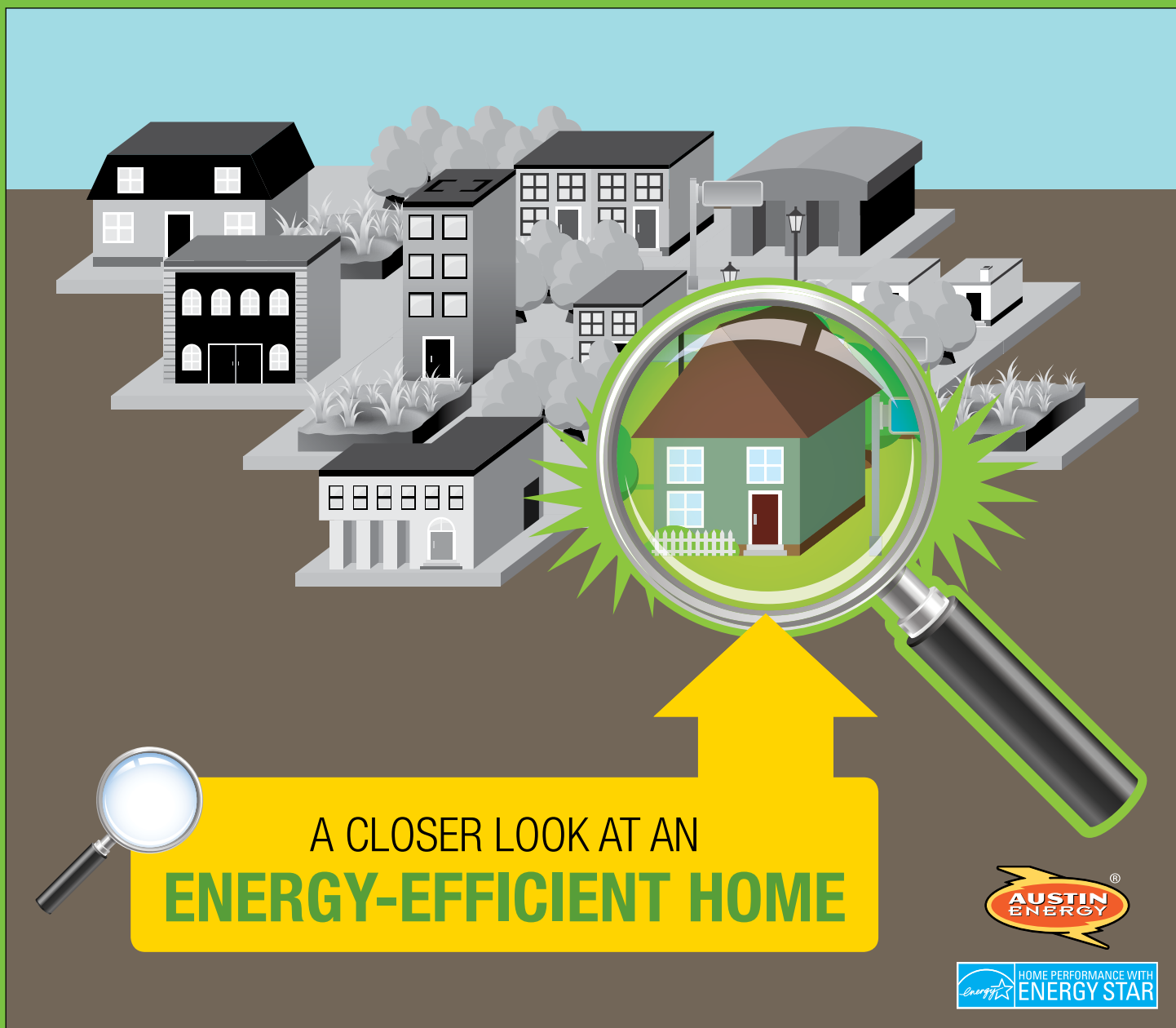


A GUIDE FOR HOMEBUYERS, HOMESELLERS & HOMEOWNERS



A CLOSER LOOK AT AN
ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME



PLUS: HELP WITH REBATES, LOANS, ENERGY SAVINGS AND EXPERTISE.



YOUR HOME VALUE

WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF YOUR HOME – ENERGY-WISE?

The curbside appeal of a home adds a lot to its value, but what you don't see can be equally important. How high are the energy bills in August? Are you sneezing because the ducts have leaks in them that suck dirt and allergens from the attic into your living space? Is the air conditioner about to break down? Are you uncomfortable?

Whether buying, selling or living in a home, it pays to find out how efficient the home really is as early as possible. Bills can be reduced, comfort increased and financial incentives can be used to your advantage.



Did you know 41 percent of home sellers felt that an energy audit helped them sell their home?

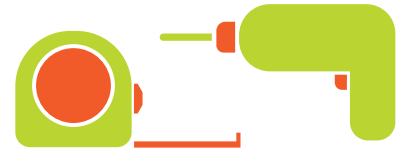
HOW TO GET STARTED

OPTION 1: GET A FREE ENERGY ANALYSIS

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® participating companies offer a free energy analysis to homes 10 years old and older. This walk-through analysis can give you a good idea of what needs work and the cost. All of the participating companies understand how to work with the rebates offered by Austin Energy and Texas Gas Service to make sure you stretch your energy dollars.

Bonus: if you receive rebates of more than \$500 or make three or more of the recommended improvements, you are exempt from the mandatory Energy Conservation and Disclosure Ordinance (ECAD) Audit (City of Austin Ordinance No. 20081106-047, June 2009).

OR



OPTION 2: GET AN ENERGY AUDIT

A multitude of options exist for energy audits, which involve testing the working parts of your home with specialized equipment. These audits are available at a cost, which is generally in keeping with the size of your house.

Home sellers are required by the City of Austin to have a specialized audit, the ECAD Audit, before a home 10 years or older is sold. This audit covers four basic areas:

- A. Heating and Cooling System (HVAC) Efficiency
- B. Air Infiltration: Duct Performance, Air Sealing in Plumbing Areas and Weatherstripping
- C. Windows: Shading, Low "E" Glass and Solar Screens
- D. Attic Insulation

Refer to the home improvement incentive chart found on the back of this insert for details on the incentives relating directly to the recommended ECAD Audit improvements.

REBATES ON KEY IMPROVEMENTS

A. **HVAC:** Rebates up to \$600, Tax Credits up to \$1500 and Energy Savings up to \$270 annually.

Your cooling system accounts for 60 – 70 percent of your summer electric bill. Year round, heating and cooling (HVAC) consumes more than half of the energy used by a household. If your HVAC equipment is more than 10 years old, replace it with an ENERGY STAR unit. Installed correctly, these high efficiency units can save 20 – 40 percent on cooling and heating costs.

B. **Air Infiltration and Duct Sealing:** Rebates up to \$470, Energy Savings up to \$120 annually.

In houses with central heating and cooling systems, air ducts are used to distribute conditioned air throughout the house. In a typical Austin house, 27 percent of the air that moves through the duct system is lost due to leaks and poorly sealed connections. This results in higher utility bills and difficulty keeping the house comfortable.

Obvious air leaks can occur around windows and entry doors. Others are hidden and require special equipment to find. Sealing these leaks will have a great impact on improving your comfort and reducing your utility bills.

C. **Windows:** Rebates up to \$164, Tax Credits up to \$1500, Energy Savings up to \$100 annually.

Low “E” glass windows have a special surface coating that blocks out 40 – 70 percent of the heat transmitted through clear glass, while allowing the full amount of light to pass through. Window films can block out 40 – 60 percent of heat, and solar screens can block out 60 – 70 percent of sunlight and heat. Austin Energy offers solar screen, solar film and Low “E” glass rebates of \$1 per square foot.

D. **Attic Insulation:** Rebates up to \$328, Tax Credits up to \$1500, Energy Savings up to \$90 annually.

Insulation allows your house to resist heat flow. The greatest energy savings are achieved by adding attic insulation. The recommended insulation level for most attics is R-38 (or about 12 – 15 inches, depending on the insulation type). Most Austin attics have less than half of the needed insulation. Austin Energy and Texas Gas Service rebate one-third of the cost of additional attic insulation.



INFORMATION

Call 974-7827 or visit our web site, www.austinenergy.com, for more information about Austin Energy's products and services.

ABOUT REBATES & LOANS

Rebates and low interest loans are available through the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program. **Rebates average 15 percent of total cost, or \$1350, and save an average of 32 percent on summer electric bills.** Loans, as low as zero percent, are available on energy efficiency improvements through Velocity Credit Union. If you are a Texas Gas Service customer, Austin Energy will send your application on to Texas Gas Service for rebates on attic insulation and duct sealing as well. Tax credits are also available on many of these improvements.

YOUR 2010 GUIDE TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES

ECAD-QUALIFYING HOME IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVES	AVERAGE COST BEFORE REBATE	AVERAGE REBATE		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL COST COVERED BY COMBINED REBATE
		AE	TX GAS	
Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HPES)®				
Rebates OR loans for all of the following efficiency improvements needed, as identified in an energy analysis: central air conditioner/heat pump, attic insulation, duct diagnostic and sealing, radiant barrier, efficient windows and solar screens. Plus Weatherization bonus for making all identified improvements.				
	\$9122	\$1350	\$307	15%
SINGLE IMPROVEMENTS MADE UNDER THE HPES PROGRAM	Air Conditioning/Heat Pumps			
	ENERGY STAR labeled central air conditioners and/or heat pumps. Rebates start at 14 SEER/11.5 EER.			
	\$6538	\$376	\$75	7%
	Reductions of Air Infiltration and Duct Sealing			
	Duct sealing, weatherstripping around doors, preventing airflow through attic stairs and fans, caulking around plumbing holes.			
	\$696	\$235	\$156	56%
	Advanced System Performance Testing			
	Specialized testing of the entire air duct system for air leakage, adequate airflow and distribution.			
	\$357	\$198		55%
	Duct Replacement			
Replacement of existing ducts due to poor design, damage and deterioration.				
\$1380	\$128	\$128	19%	
Attic Insulation				
Upgrading attic insulation to R-38.				
\$1246	\$207	\$207	33%	
Solar Shading				
Solar screens, awnings, window film for sun-facing windows receiving direct sun on 40 percent or more of the glass for one hour or more.				
\$821	\$143		17%	
Radiant Barrier				
\$1278	\$185		15%	
Window Replacements				
Installation of Low "E" glass to replace existing standard glass windows.				
\$6766	\$187		3%	
Appliance Efficiency (no energy analysis required)				
Rebates on the purchase of these efficient technologies: ENERGY STAR air conditioners, ground source heat pumps, mini-splits, solar water heaters. Check www.austinenergy.com for individual appliance rebates.				

NOTE: Figures are based on an estimate for the average single family house in Austin (1,800–2,000 sq. ft.) that has made improvements through an efficiency program by Austin Energy or Texas Gas Service.

ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT

SOLAR REBATES

Photovoltaic Rebates – Includes installation, warranty and 5-year maintenance. Average system size is 3kW. Limited rebates available at \$2.50 per watt.

Solar Water Heaters – For electric water heaters only. Includes installation of rooftop system. Water is heated through rooftop piping system and stored in an electric water heater. Rebates: \$1,500 new homes /\$2,000 for existing homes.

TEXAS GAS REBATES – Gas Furnace Incentive (\$75), high efficiency gas water heaters (\$40) and tankless or super high efficiency water heater rebates (\$300) are available for Texas Gas Service customers only. www.TexasGasService.com or call 370-8243

FREE PROGRAMS

Free Home Energy Work – Free materials and labor for these repairs: attic insulation, duct sealing, caulking, weatherstripping and solar shading for the income-qualified, elderly and disabled.

Free Programmable Thermostats – Free programmable thermostats, plus free installation in exchange for cycling privileges. 1-877-549-2774

Refrigerator Recycling – Free pick up and recycling of standard-sized old working refrigerators and freezers. We pay \$50 per working appliance. 1-800-452-8685

Free Gas Heaters – For Texas Gas Service customers (*income qualified*). 370-8243