For use with media, for press releases and for other communications including website language

Background

American households spend on average $2,200 each year on their utility bills. Many could pay far less by making home improvements that save energy, but most homeowners don't have the information to take the first step. To meet this need, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) developed the Home Energy Score. It is an energy assessment that gives homeowners a quick understanding of how their homes perform and what steps to take to improve performance.

The Basics of Home Energy Score

Much like a car's miles per gallon (MPG) rating, the Home Energy Score is an indicator of a home's energy efficiency. With Home Energy Score, homes are scored on a scale of 1 to 10 with a 10 being the most efficient. Perhaps most important, the Score can be used to compare different homes or see how your home ranks relative to others. This type of information can help motivate homeowners to make energy efficiency improvements, and can help homebuyers make an informed decision when purchasing a home.

During a Home Energy Score assessment, an Assessor collects and enters information about the home into the Home Energy Scoring Tool software. The Assessor then generates the Score on an easy-to-read 1 to 10 scale. In addition to the Score, homeowners receive information about the home (Home Facts) and suggested improvements to make the home operate more efficiently (Recommendations). These three parts (the Score, Home Facts, and Recommendations) are included with every Home Energy Score. Assessors must work through one of DOE's Home Energy Score Partners, and must meet minimum credential requirements and pass a DOE test prior to being authorized to score homes.

The Home Energy Score program was piloted in 2011 in 10 areas across the United States. In 2012, DOE began partnering with state and local governments, non-profit organizations, and utilities ("Partners") to provide the Home Energy Score to their residents.