

Meet the Needs of Your Customers & Ratepayers with Home Energy Score

Homeowners across the country increasingly expect energy efficiency services to be a mainstay of their utilities' services. By offering the Home Energy Score with your efficiency programs, you show your customers you are committed to their home's performance and energy savings and are tapping into a nationally tested tool to bring them reliable, objective information.

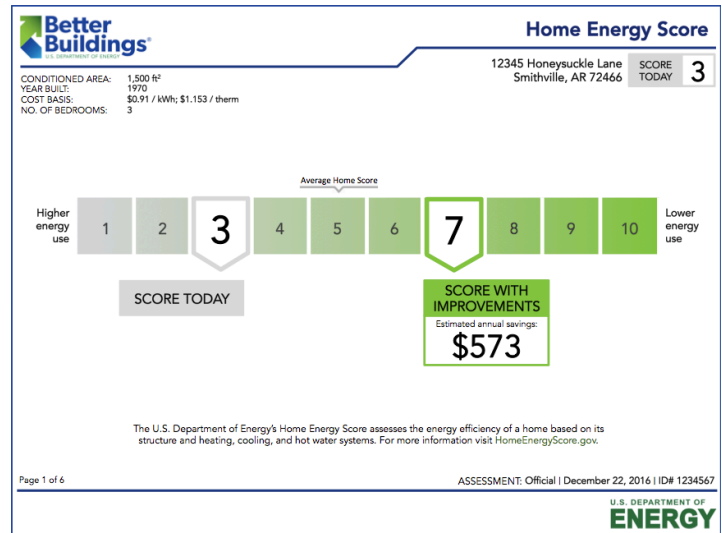
What is the Home Energy Score?

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 350 qualified Home Energy Score Assessors have scored over 37,000 homes nationwide. Significant growth is expected as more utilities and co-ops recognize the value of using the Home Energy Score to curb residential energy use and to serve as a reliable metric for energy performance.

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



“Adding the Home Energy Score to our utility programs was not a heavy lift at all. We use the Score to motivate customers to do additional energy efficiency improvements.”

— Jerry R. from New Jersey Natural Gas

Ways to Offer the Home Energy Score

Our 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 impacts 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.** Utilities can customize the Score's recommendations and accompanying educational materials according to local preferences.

"The entire country should get involved and incorporate the Home Energy Score. The tool is easy to use and very accurate."

— Terry F. from Columbia Water & Light, Missouri



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. This involves having a mentor or quality assurance provider rescore at least 5% of homes.
- ▶ 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.

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.