

## Build Your Business with the Home Energy Score

Homeowners are typically not well informed about their home's construction or energy systems. Lacking good information, homeowners miss opportunities to reduce their energy use and associated costs. As a residential building professional, you can help provide homeowners vital information to keep their homes affordable and comfortable. By using the U.S. Department of Energy's Home Energy Score, you can provide your customers with a credible, nationally recognized product that is flexible to meet your needs.

### What is the Home Energy Score?

Like a miles-per-gallon rating for a car, the Home Energy Score is an easy-to-produce rating designed to help homeowners and homebuyers gain useful information about a home's energy performance. Based on an in-home assessment that can be completed in less than an hour, the Home Energy Score not only lets a homeowner understand how efficient the home is and how it compares to others, but also provides recommendations on how to cost-effectively improve the home's energy efficiency.

The Home Energy Score uses a simple 1-to-10 scale where a 10 represents the most energy efficient homes. The Score was designed to be easily understood and to tap into people's desire to improve their score or to outperform their peers.

Since the program launched in 2012, more than 350 qualified Home Energy Score Assessors have scored over 37,000 homes nationwide.



### 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 according to local preferences.

### Why Use the Home Energy Score?

- ▶ **As a certified residential building professional, you pre-qualify!** DOE's online training and testing are offered free and at your own pace. You can work under an existing Home Energy Score Partner in your area to gain access to these tools. All you need is a credential relevant to residential buildings - see our website for a complete list.
- ▶ **New financial incentives make the Score attractive for home improvements.** 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.

### Become a Qualified Assessor

Home Energy Score can help you reach more customers with a wider portfolio of services. The DOE is recruiting Assessors to lead the charge in encouraging home energy efficiency investments. Visit our website at [HomeEnergyScore.gov](http://HomeEnergyScore.gov) to locate a Partner organization in your area, or contact us directly at [assessor@sra.com](mailto:assessor@sra.com).



# Home Energy Score

Score Home Facts Recommendations

ADDRESS 12345 Honeysuckle Lane  
Smithville, AR 72466

HOME SIZE 1,800 square feet  
YEAR BUILT 1970  
AIR CONDITIONING Yes

Your home's current score **2**

Score with improvements **6**

Estimated annual savings **\$541**



Learn more at [homeenergyscore.gov](http://homeenergyscore.gov)

The **Score** page shows the home's current Score, its Score with improvements, and estimated annual savings.



# Home Energy Score

Score Home Facts Recommendations



## About this home

Assessment date	Nov 20, 2015
Address	12345 Honeysuckle Lane
City, state, zip	Smithville, AR 72466
Year built	1970
Number of bedrooms	3
Stories above ground level	2
Interior floor-to-ceiling height (feet)	8
Conditioned floor area (all stories combined, square feet)	1,800
Direction faced by front of house	South
Has the house been air sealed?	No
Air leakage rate	4,200 CFM50



## Estimated energy use per year

Total (MBTUs)	212
Score basis (MBTUs)	144
Electricity (KWh)	11312
Natural gas (therms)	869



## Comments

The **Home Facts** pages provide both the data collected during the home walk-through and the estimated energy use for the home.



# Home Energy Score

Score Home Facts Recommendations

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## Repair now: These improvements will save you money, conserve energy, and improve your comfort now

	Estimated utility bill savings (\$/year)
Attic 1 / Increase attic floor insulation to at least R-49	187
Ducts 1 / Add insulation around ducts in unconditioned spaces to at least R-6	71
Ducts 1 / Have your ducts professionally sealed to reduce leakage	171



## Replace later: These improvements will help you save energy when it's time to replace or upgrade

	Estimated utility bill savings (\$/year)
Furnace 1 / Pick one with an ENERGY STAR label	106
Central Air 1 / Pick one with an ENERGY STAR label	80
Water heater / Pick one with an ENERGY STAR label	34



With these improvements reduce your home's carbon footprint by: **27%**



The Home Energy Score recommendations for efficiency improvements are based on selected data from the home's assets, not information from a complete energy audit. When making energy related upgrades, homeowners should consult with a certified energy professional or other technically qualified contractor to ensure proper sizing, installation, safety, and adherence to code.

[homeenergyscore.gov](http://homeenergyscore.gov)

OFFICIAL ASSESSMENT | Assessor ID 101019 | Assessed on Nov 20, 2015 | Label ID# 99011 | v2015

The **Recommendations** page provides cost-effective improvements, divided into "Repair Now" (e.g. better insulation, air sealing, duct sealing) and "Replace Later" (e.g. replacing HVAC and hot water equipment with ENERGY STAR rated options).