



EMBRACE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

A reference guide for home buyers, sellers, owners and professionals involved in a real estate transaction

IS YOUR HOME MORE THAN 10 YEARS OLD?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REDUCE HIGH SUMMER ENERGY BILLS?

DO YOU HAVE AN OLDER AIR CONDITIONING UNIT?

DOES YOUR HOME FEEL TOO HUMID?

ARE YOU BATTLING ALLERGY SYMPTOMS, EVEN WHILE INSIDE YOUR HOME?



Learn more about the energy efficiency benefits awaiting you. ● ● ● ● ●



Throughout the community, Austin Energy customers benefit from improving home energy efficiency, which helps save energy and money while increasing comfort and indoor air quality. Whether buying, selling or living in a house, a home energy analysis is the best way to begin taking advantage of these energy efficiency benefits.

BENEFITS AWAIT YOU

● Identify Hidden Opportunities

Discover potentially hidden home management-related costs as well as opportunities for valuable home and health improvement.

● Increase Your Home Value

Make your house more distinct and attractive in the competitive real estate marketplace with energy efficiency upgrades.

● Reduce Energy Bills

Save up to 20 percent or more on monthly energy bills by implementing energy efficiency improvements through Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®.

Expertise and Incentives Help You

Austin Energy customers benefit from a unique opportunity to take advantage of our partnership with a network of local professionals who can conduct your home energy analysis and make precision home improvements. Austin Energy rebates can cover an average of **\$1,500 off** the total cost of all recommended energy efficiency measures per improvement project. Attractive financing is available through Velocity Credit Union. You may also benefit from applicable Texas Gas Service rebates and tax credits available on many of these improvements.

Extra Considerations for Home Buyers and Sellers

During real estate transactions, home sellers are responsible for disclosing comprehensive energy audit details to buyers, according to the Energy Conservation Audit and Disclosure (ECAD) ordinance. This ordinance applies to homes more than 10 years old within the Austin city limits. The ECAD audit typically happens at the time of home sale, with a completion deadline during the 10-day option period or at time of contract signing.

START YOUR HOME ENERGY ANALYSIS

Option 1:

Free Visual Inspection

For homes more than 10 years old, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® participating companies will perform a free walk-through visual inspection of your home. Since these companies understand Austin Energy and Texas Gas Service rebates, they will give you a proposal identifying energy-saving measures while ensuring you benefit from incentives to help you stretch your home improvement dollar.

Option 2:

Comprehensive Energy Audit

Work with certified energy professionals to conduct a comprehensive home energy audit with specialized equipment and testing, especially if your home is more than 10 years old. This energy audit includes assessing the efficiency of air infiltration and ductwork, attic insulation, windows, weatherization and heating and cooling (HVAC). While you are responsible for the cost, your detailed energy audit results meet ECAD requirements.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you receive rebates of more than \$500 or make at least three of the recommended improvements through Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, you meet ECAD requirements for a period of 10 years.

KEY ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

Work with participating companies to address the following opportunities.

Home HVAC System

Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps

Your cooling system accounts for 60-70 percent of your summer electric bill. Throughout the year, heating and cooling consumes more than half of the energy used by a household. A properly-sized, high-efficiency ENERGY STAR unit can help you save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs while you benefit from available rebates.

Air Infiltration and Ductwork

In houses with central heating and cooling systems, air ducts distribute conditioned air throughout the house. In a typical Austin-area house more than 10 years old, 27 percent of the air moving through a duct system is lost due to leaks and poorly-sealed connections. This can result in higher energy bills, higher inside allergen counts and difficulty keeping the house comfortable. Resolving ductwork issues makes a difference in the health of your family and your wallet.

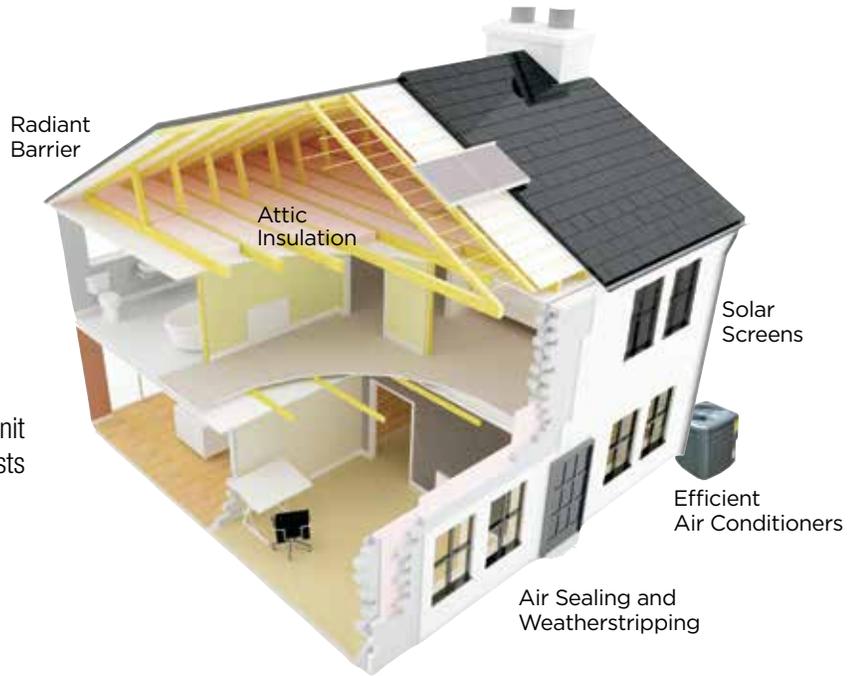
Home Shell or Envelope

Solar Shading

Certain window treatments can reduce home heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. Window awnings, for example, can reduce summer solar heat gain by up to 65 percent on south-facing windows, and 77 percent on west-facing windows. Appropriate solar shading and landscaping options you plant can increase sources of shade outside your home.

Attic Insulation

Proper levels of insulation prevent your home from absorbing excess heat. Most Austin-area attics in older homes have less than half of the needed insulation. The recommended level and approved rebate requirement for most attic insulation is R-38, about 12-15 inches, depending on the insulation type. Before adding attic insulation, be sure to have ductwork tested to ensure new insulation does not eliminate access to repair leaky ducts.



When you take full advantage of your relationship with Austin Energy, you benefit from cost savings, energy efficiency, increased comfort and an enhanced lifestyle. Access a list of participating companies at powersaver.austinenergy.com to schedule your home energy analysis and embrace energy efficiency today.





ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND INCENTIVES FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT



Power PartnerSM

Thermostat Program

Earn \$85 for each qualified Internet-connected thermostat you enroll in the Power Partner Thermostat program.

Solar Photovoltaics (PV)

Get rebate assistance for purchased on-site PV installation, warranty and 5-year maintenance. Average system size is 6kW. Since solar equipment leases are available from third parties, often with no upfront cost, they are not eligible for Austin Energy rebates.



Austin Energy Web App

Monitor your energy use from anywhere and receive important alerts to save on your bill. Log in by using your online City of Austin Utilities username and password at austinenergyapp.com today.

Variable-Speed Pool Pump and Motor

Install a qualified variable-speed pool pump to save energy and earn a \$300 rebate.



Instant Savings

Save while shopping for energy-efficient products at participating retailers. For a limited time, qualifying energy-saving items are eligible for instant in-store rebates at the cash register.

Look for the Austin Energy logo and “Instant Savings” on the store shelf labels. Visit austinenergy.com/go/instantavings for a list of retailers and eligible products. Rebates vary by season.

Texas Gas Service

Gas furnace incentives and high-efficiency tank and tankless gas water heater rebates are available to Texas Gas Service customers. Visit texasgasservice.com or call 512-370-8243.

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austinenergy.com/go/ecad

REMEMBER THESE ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Use Efficient Lighting

LEDs, on average, use only a tenth of the electricity and last 50 times longer than incandescent lights, and are twice as efficient, lasting five times longer than CFLs.

Adjust Your Thermostat

Keep the temperature in your home at or above 78 degrees during warmer months. Every degree higher cuts your energy bill by three to five percent.

Reduce Phantom Load

Many electronics continue to use electricity even when switched off. Unplug appliances, chargers and other electronics, and use power strips to cut off power, to avoid these phantom loads.

Keep Them Clean

Replace dirty air filters monthly with pleated filters. Dirty air filters make your air conditioner work harder and longer.

Check Your Fridge and Freezer

To save on your energy bill, set your refrigerator temperature between 36 and 38 degrees, and your freezer between 0 and 5 degrees. Keep them indoors and out of garages to save energy.

A City of Austin program Austin Energy rebate levels and program details subject to change.