

Energy Auditors

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Empire Electric Association, Inc.

Energy Audits


Knowledge is power



Home Energy Audits

An energy audit's purpose is to identify places in the home where energy is being wasted and prioritize the projects needed to fix them. The end result is intended to reduce the amount of energy the home needs to operate and keep occupants comfortable. While the word "audit" may sound ominous, a home energy audit is just the first step in the process of lowering energy bills by making a home more efficient. Energy audits

range from a simple walk-through or energy assessment, like Empire Electric offers, to a more elaborate service performed by trained profession-



als. Which is right for you will depend on your situation, abilities and interest level.

If you own your home, there is a clearly defined benefit for your efforts. You'll start saving money on your energy bills as soon as you **identify and fix** energy wasters.

If you rent or lease, it's a good idea to check with your landlord to see if the audit findings can be acted on. A landlord who pays the utility bills is more likely to invest in the process knowing that there will be savings through lower utility bills down the road.

Professional auditors use a variety of techniques and equipment to determine the **energy efficiency** of a home. This usually requires several hours to a full day to conduct an audit. Any retrofit work would, of course, cost additional money, but some companies offering energy audits will discount the price of the audit if follow-up work is performed.

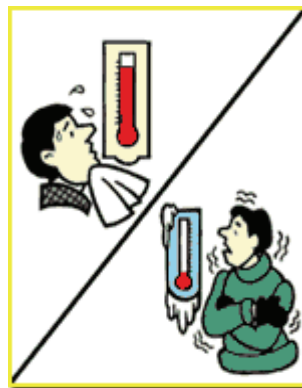
A professional energy audit should include a walk-around and a walk-through to identify problems. The auditor should perform a room-by-room examination and a careful examination of past utility bills. Thorough audits often use

equipment such as blower doors, which measure the extent and location of air leaks, as well as infrared cameras, which reveal hard-to-detect areas of air leakage and missing insulation.

Before the auditor visits your house, make a list of any problems or concerns you want to discuss. Have copies or a summary of the home's energy bills. The auditors use this information to establish what to look for during the audit.

Energy Assessments

An energy assessment is a much less involved examination of your electric usage. We are able to measure the kilowatt usage of appliances, like refrigerators or freezers; and give you an idea how much it is costing you to run the appliance.



We can make suggestions from an observer's point of view only. For example, if you have older single-pane windows and your insulation isn't very good, perhaps it's time for an upgrade. This is something you can determine yourself by performing your own energy audit with the help of our website (www.eea.coop) and click on the Home Energy Suite tab. Also under the Library Tab, you'll discover a Home Energy guide that will take you through each room of your home. You can then make a list of things you may need to change or upgrade.



First! Find and Fix Air Leaks!

If you are a tenant and pay the utility bills yourself, you'll benefit immediately from no-cost and low-cost measures uncovered by a self performed energy audit. Improvements requiring an investment in the building itself or its systems should be carefully evaluated since you don't own them and won't be taking them with you if you move to another property.

Empire Electric pays 50% up to \$500 of your professional Energy Audit. You will need to contact one of the auditors listed in this brochure to schedule your Audit. Since E-Star Raters are independent contractors and because each house and business is a little different, the charges for home energy audits vary. You will need to contact them for their fees.