

Home Energy Audit

PROGRAM DETAILS

An on-site home energy audit is now available to members for a fee of \$ 75. The audit includes a blower door test, infrared camera, and full home walkthrough. Members can receive reimbursement for the entire charge (in the form of an energy credit) by making recommended changes.

Restrictions : To receive an audit, a residence must be occupied for at least nine months out of the year and the member must be present at the time of audit. Each individual service is eligible for one audit within a five-year period. Mobile homes, campers, barns, garages and warehouses are not eligible.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Mid-Ohio Energy offers the Energy Audit as a service to members. Tests and walkthroughs are designed to help educate members and give them a firsthand look at several aspects of home energy efficiency. It is not intended to measure the performance of a member's heating and cooling systems and these tests cannot be used to settle any legal dispute between a member and contractor.

Upon arrival, cooperative representatives will talk with the member to answer questions and find areas of interest. After verifying that the home is prepared, the co-op rep will set up the blower door and fan in an exterior doorway. The fan will then depressurize the house and take readings on the home's air tightness. An energy audit walkthrough will be conducted throughout the whole home with the blower door simulating a 20 mph wind on all sides of the house. This



test gives members a great look at where air is infiltrating / escaping. The cooperative's infrared camera can be used to track and photograph temperature differences to highlight hidden points that drive up a home's energy usage.

The length of the test will vary from home to home, but is expected to last approximately 3 hours. Upon completion, members will receive a detailed report and pictures of problem areas, along with recommendations for making problem areas

MORE EFFICIENT.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Interested in having your home audited? To schedule an appointment, just call or stop by one of our offices today.

PREPARING FOR YOUR INSPECTION

Since the test depressurizes the house, sucking air in through all the openings (including flues), it is important that all combustion devices be disabled during the test. Heating systems and gas water heaters must be shut off. Pilot lights should be extinguished. All wood-burning appliances in the house need to be out. It is recommended that houses dependent upon wood-burning appliances for heat avoid scheduling audits during periods of extreme cold. In the winter a temporary reduction in a home's indoor temperature can be expected—please plan accordingly.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does the blower door work?

A covered door frame is set up in a door facing the outside. A fan fits into an opening in the door and is run to depressurize the house. Gauges take indoor/outdoor readings to determine the amount of air flowing through the house. This snapshot of airflow gives the homeowner an idea of how the home's envelope rates. The fan is then turned down and left running as a walkthrough is performed to locate air leaks.

When is the best time of the year to have a blower door test?

Any! The sooner you can find out areas of air infiltration, the sooner you can make changes and cut down on your heating and cooling air loss. A very windy day can cause some fluctuation of test results. In order to ensure accurate results from the infrared camera, ideally a 15 degree difference should exist between indoor and outdoor temperature.

How can I receive reimbursement for the cost of the audit?

After the audit, you will receive a detailed report highlighting recommended changes that can be made to the home. You can be reimbursed for a portion or the entire audit's cost by making these recommended changes and providing proof to the cooperative. Acceptable proof includes receipts or pictures of the completed fixes. The reimbursement will be in the form of an energy credit to the member's electric bill.

Is it possible for a home to be too "tight"?

Yes, it is recommended that a home has a certain amount of air changes over a period of time, depending on the home and how many occupants. The blower door is not always the best measure to recommend adding ventilation because they don't account for pollutants or existing means of ventilation.

POST - INSPECTION / OTHER TOOLS

The cooperative provides several helpful tools and resources to help you use energy efficiently. In addition to offering home energy audits, there are a variety of resources on our website at www.midohioenergy.com. Online tools include an Energy Calculator, "101 Low Cost/No Cost Home Energy-Saving Tips", and energy advisor resources.

The Kill-A-Watt meter provides real-time usage information (wattage/voltage/kWh used, etc.) on specific appliances. This device makes it easy to pinpoint which appliances are driving up your monthly electric usage. These units can be signed out from our offices and returned at no cost to members.