

# SPECIALLY TRAINED CONTRACTORS PUT THE PIECES OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY TOGETHER FOR YOU.

## STEP 1. FIND A CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR

Choose from Consumers Energy's network of independent Building Performance Institute-certified contractors. All contractors use advanced state-of-the-art equipment to evaluate your home's energy use and are specially trained to help you discover ways to improve your home's comfort and reduce its energy costs.\*

## STEP 2. GET A COMPREHENSIVE HOME ASSESSMENT

A certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor will conduct a comprehensive energy assessment of your home that includes:

- Customized energy modeling to identify improvement costs and benefits
- A blower door test that uses a combination of pressure and airflow measurements to determine your home's air leakage
- Thermal imaging camera tests that use infrared images to assess the effectiveness of your home's insulation
- A Duct leakage test to measure the amount of conditioned air leaking from ductwork
- A Combustion efficiency test for heating and cooling equipment to determine if they are operating at peak efficiency
- A Combustion safety test to detect carbon monoxide and gas leaks
- A review of the past 12 months of utility bills to analyze your energy usage and the potential savings to be gained from installing energy efficient improvements

The cost of a comprehensive home assessment varies. Your participating contractor will discuss costs with you before conducting the assessment. The average cost of a comprehensive home assessment for a 2,000 square foot home is \$275.\*\* The cost for your home may be more or less, depending on the size of your home and which participating contractor you select.

## STEP 3. REVIEW THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on your home assessment, your contractor will provide you with the following:

- Recommended improvements and the associated costs and benefits
- Utility bill savings estimates
- Expected payback information from the improvements

## STEP 4. DECIDE WHICH ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS TO MAKE

Your contractor will help you determine the optimal improvements for your home and the rebates for which you qualify. Once you decide which improvements to make, your contractor will present you with a written contract. After you approve the work plan, sign the contract and customer participation agreement and keep a copy for your records.

## STEP 5. APPROVE JOB COMPLETION

Because energy efficiency improvements often result in a home becoming more airtight, the contractor is required to complete a final test to check for air quality or combustion safety problems and ensure that the work was completed properly. The results of the inspection can be found on the final job test-out report. Your home may also be inspected by a representative of the Consumers Energy Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program. This added quality assurance will ensure that contractors maintain high levels of professionalism. **DO NOT** sign the Rebate Application until all work specified on the original contract is completed to your satisfaction. By signing the Rebate Application, you are agreeing that the work has been completed to your satisfaction. Your contractor will submit your signed Rebate Application to the Consumers Energy Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program for verification. Upon acceptance, a check will be mailed to you in six to eight weeks.

\*Only approved contractors are eligible to participate in the program.

\*\* Source: ICF Participating Contractor Survey, September 2013

For a list of certified contractors,  
visit **ConsumersEnergy.com/myhome**  
or call **(866) 234-0445**.

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