

ENERGY WISE

for your Home



With as much as half of the energy used in your home going to heating and cooling, choosing ENERGY STAR® certified heating and cooling equipment can have a big impact on your comfort while helping you save money.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



BUILDING A NEW HOME?

Be sure to make it an energy efficient one to save energy and money! Consider a home audit, or take it a step further and talk to your builder about the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater Program.

Benefits of an efficient home include lower electricity bills, healthier indoor air quality and a more comfortable home.

Home Audits

Home audits are the quickest and simplest way to optimize your home's efficiency and set you on the path to lower energy bills and a more efficient home.

Your cooperative offers two audit options:

1. Energy Review Audit

A cooperative-provided energy review and analysis can help identify the opportunities within your home with the largest savings potential. An energy review can help members pinpoint areas where they can save energy, electrify equipment, participate in off-peak programs, and take advantage of rebate programs. Topics generally included in an energy review:

- Electric rate analysis
- Electrical use and cost review
- Off-peak opportunities
- Rebate program participation

2. Third Party Audit

An audit is conducted by a trained auditor who will assess how much energy your home uses, and then recommend measures you can take to improve the energy efficiency and safety of your home. Receive an in-home visit from a certified auditor who performs a home energy audit to identify small home improvements that can help you save money. Then, the auditor gets to work installing the preferred energy savings measures.

Items that can be directly installed include:

- LED bulbs
- Programmable thermostat
- Door and attic hatch weather stripping
- Blower door test
- Thermal image testing
- High efficiency showerheads
- Kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators
- Water heater temperature assessment and adjustment as needed

The EnergyWise New Home Construction program is based on the concept of a house as a system

Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater Program for Builders

The HERS program for builders provides incentives for builders to design and construct homes that exceed local energy code and baseline requirements for energy efficiency. Homes must be evaluated by a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) accredited HERS rater. The HERS Raters help builders achieve energy savings by providing plan review analysis and onsite verification throughout the construction process. The HERS rater provides an itemized verification report of installed equipment per home, which can be submitted for energy savings and rebates. The HERS rater may also be eligible to receive a trade ally incentive for providing the report.

Based on the home's plans, the HERS rater uses an energy efficiency software package to perform an energy analysis of the home's design. This analysis yields a projected, pre-construction HERS Index. The HERS Index is a scoring system established by RESNET in which a home built to the specifications of the HERS Reference Home (based on the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code) scores a HERS Index of 100, while a net zero energy home scores a HERS Index of 0. Example: A home with a HERS Index of 85 is 15% more energy efficient than the HERS reference home (building code), and a home with a HERS Index of 80 is 20% more energy efficient.

The rater then conducts on-site verification inspections, typically including a blower door test (to test for any leaks in the house) and a duct test (to test for any leaks in the ducts). Results of these tests, along with inputs derived from the plan review, are used to generate the HERS Index of the home.

HERS raters are listed on the Minnesota Building Performance Association website at:
<http://www.mbpa.us/news/category/HERS%20Rating>

HERS Raters

The Energy Network (TEN)

6480 Carlson Dr. Suite B
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
Ross Anderson,
ross@tenww.com
612-913-4250

Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)

Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)
formerly, The Neighborhood Energy Connection
1754 University Ave., W.
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phil Anderson,
panderson@mncee.org
651-789-5713

Building Knowledge

PO Box 1376
Burnsville, MN 55337
Patrick O'Malley
952-944-5605

Residential Science Resources, LLC (RSR)

1345 Corporate Center Curve
Eagan, MN 55121
Erik Sowers
651-200-3400

Who can participate?

To qualify for the program you must live in the member cooperative service territory.

CONTACT US

For any questions, or to inquire about consultation services, please contact Cooperative Light & Power at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881 for more information.