

# A Beginners Guide to Home Energy Assessments

## What is a home energy assessment?

An **energy assessment** is a home inspection which provides information about your home's energy efficiency. It can also be called an **energy audit** or **energy evaluation**.

It is conducted by an **energy advisor** registered with Natural Resources Canada, also known as a REA. Their job is to analyse and report on your home's energy performance and advise on the most sensible and effective improvements to be made.

At the end of your assessment you will receive a Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) [EnerGuide Rating Label](#) showing your home's energy efficiency rating and a comprehensive [Energuide Homeowner Information Sheet \(HOIS\)](#).

Your Energy Advisor will also provide you with a [Renovation Upgrade Report \(RUR\)](#), which will highlight the recommended upgrades for your home. This report will function as a planning tool to help guide your renovations so you can prioritize energy efficiency measures that deliver the most cost effective and lasting results.

## Why should I get a home energy assessment?

An assessment will clearly identify how your home uses and loses energy. It will show you the best ways to make changes to your home in order to improve its energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and overall comfort.

An EnerGuide home energy assessment is also required for some rebate and incentive programs, and must be completed before starting any qualifying upgrades on your home.

For more information about available rebates and incentives that require a home energy audit you can visit [XXX \[LINK TO BLOG POST ABOUT REBATES\]](#)

## What will a Registered Energy Advisor do?

Your energy advisor will conduct a **basement to attic analysis of your home**. They will take measurements and photographs and collect information such as:

- Insulation levels in the basement, main floor walls, overhanging floors and attic
- The style and orientation of your windows and doors
- The heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems in the home
- Your hot water heating system
- Air leakage in the home

Your energy advisor will also complete a blower door test, which is a bit like running a large fan inside your house, and measures the amount of air leakage that escapes from your home. They will also walk you through the home to explain where the major air leaks are.

## Benefits of getting an assessment:

- **Knowledge** – understanding more about your home will help you to make the best choice for energy efficiency upgrades in your home.
- **Impact** – an energy assessment is the first step towards making your home more energy efficient and reducing its environmental impact.
- **Savings** – making energy efficiency upgrades to your home will save you money on your energy bills and increase the value of your home.
- **Comfort** – learn how to tighten up those drafty areas and make your home more comfortable year round.
- **Official Rating** – Receive an official EnerGuide label from Natural Resources Canada showing your home's energy rating.

## How to get started

EnviroCentre would be happy to help you with your Energy Assessments. You can [contact us](#) directly for details and pricing.