

## Home Energy Assessments

### Why we care

When policy makers don't take steps to address global warming, there are still actions we as individuals can take to make a difference. To save energy, you've heard the admonitions, "turn off lights" and "turn down the thermostat," but there's something that can have an even greater impact: have a home energy assessment and carry out the recommendations. You will cut fuel use, save money, and make your home more comfortable.

Nearly half the energy you use in your home is for space heating and cooling, and **any** fuel you use emits carbon (most electricity in Oregon is produced by burning coal or natural gas). If you are trying to conserve energy, you don't want lose heat through leaky walls and windows. In addition, starting January 1, 2018 home sellers in Portland will be required to provide a Home Energy Score to prospective buyers.

### Simple, positive change

- Start with a free phone consultation with the non-profit Enhabit, which will help you navigate options, get bids from contractors, find the best financing and rebates, and ensure the job's done right. The consultant will match you with a contractor who has the expertise for the measures you might take, such as more insulation, double-pane windows, air sealing, duct sealing, or a more efficient furnace. 1-855-870-0049, <https://enhabit.org/>
- Arrange for the contractor to do a walk through and give you a bid. Some contractors use diagnostic equipment, like a blower door, to assess your home's energy performance.
- Carry out the measures that make sense to you. One factor may be how many years before your investment is repaid through utility savings.

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