

## What is a Home Energy Audit?

A Home Energy Audit assesses your home's energy efficiency by:

- Identifying steps you can take to increase energy efficiency and lower energy bills.
- Recommending low-cost DIY repairs that can save you money!

## How much money can I save?

Depending on how efficient your home already is, you can see savings of 10% or more on your electric bill.

## Professional vs Self Energy Audit

There are companies that offer comprehensive energy audits. However, there are a few low-cost steps you can take that offer good results.

## Did you know?

According to EnergyStar.gov the typical household spends \$2,000 a year on energy bills and by using ENERGY STAR® products you can save 30 percent on energy bills.

For additional information on how to conduct a DIY Home Energy Audit visit, [www.Energy.gov/EnergySaver/Home-Energy-Audits/Do-It-Yourself-Home-Energy-Audits](http://www.Energy.gov/EnergySaver/Home-Energy-Audits/Do-It-Yourself-Home-Energy-Audits).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of Irving's Think Green Be Green website  
[CityofIrving.org/BeGreen](http://CityofIrving.org/BeGreen)

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This information was put together by the City of Irving Green Advisory Board. The Irving Green Advisory Board proposes and recommends to the Irving City Council environmental programs, projects, and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for the city's residents, businesses and visitors.



# DIY HOME ENERGY AUDIT

A Residential Guide to Energy Saving Options

[CityofIrving.org/BeGreen](http://CityofIrving.org/BeGreen)



### **Infrared or Thermal Camera (there's a free app for that!)**

This step works best when the temperature outside is significantly different than the temperature indoors. First, download an app for an infrared or thermal camera.

- Aim the camera at the seals around doors and windows.
- Red shows heat, and blue shows cooler temperatures.
- See where the air leaks are.

When the camera is aimed at the walls and ceiling, red or blue areas show where there are gaps in the insulation of the house. Focus your effort on areas that are red in the summer, and blue in the winter.

**Caulking and Weather Stripping** — apply in areas where there are drafts around windows and doors.

**Energy Efficient Appliances** — as current appliances need replacement, consider Energy Star rated products.

**Fireplace Damper should be closed when fireplace is not in use.**

**Unplug electronics not in use.**



**Hot water pipes and tanks** — install an insulation blanket around the water heater tank or consider a tankless water heater and wrap insulation around hot water pipes.

### **Where to Start?**

**Insulation** — The efficiency of insulation is measured with an R value. The higher the R value, the better the insulation.

If it's safe, get inside the attic and take a look inside the walls:

- Attic insulation should be R 30 — R 60.
- Wall insulation should be R 13 — R 15.
- Blown cellulose insulation should be at least 10 inches thick.
- Blown fiber glass insulation should be at least 14 inches thick.

### **Did you know?**

According to Energy.gov the potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 10 percent to 20 percent per year.

### **DIY Home Energy Audit Checklist**

- Insulation
- Infrared or Thermal Camera
- Caulking and Weather Stripping
- Energy Efficient Appliances
- Fireplace Damper
- Unplug electronics
- Hot water pipes and tanks