

FAQ's

How do I obtain my past utility bills?

You can request a complete report on the last year's utility billings from your utility company, over the phone or online.

Will the blower door affect my children or pet?

No, it will feel just like the house is experiencing a windy day. Windows and doors will be shut while the blower door is operating.

What time of year is best to have an energy assessment performed?

Typically the greater the difference in temperature from the outside of the home to the inside, the better the results. The Village therefore recommends an assessment between the months of October and April.

Will I get a Tax Credit if I have an energy audit performed or make energy efficiency improvements?

Energy efficiency tax credits are only applicable to certain improvements and products. Please check with these resources to see if your project is eligible.

- www.energytaxincentives.org
- www.irs.gov

Terms and Conditions

- This program is for Hoffman Estates owner-occupied single family homes built prior to 1990.
 - A typical Level III energy audit may cost over \$600; this Village audit is \$100 with \$50 refunded if one of the recommended improvements is implemented.
 - A (free) re-inspection must be conducted after improvements are completed to receive the \$50 rebate.
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- This program is voluntary. To find out more about the energy assessment process or to schedule an energy assessment, please call: **847-781-2645**.
 - The previous year's utility bills are required for the Energy Analysts to establish a baseline for your home and forecast energy savings.
 - Wood burning fireplaces are not to be used for 24 hours prior to the assessment.



Hoffman Estates Residential Energy Assessment Program



Code Enforcement Division Development Services

Village of Hoffman Estates

1900 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

847-781-2645

What is an Energy Assessment?

An Energy Assessment is a comprehensive review of your home's energy systems to ensure they are working efficiently and in harmony. A comprehensive home Energy Assessment measures air leakage, locates deficiencies of insulation, and identifies indoor air quality safety issues to help you create a safe and healthy home environment.

Benefits of an Energy Assessment

Once the improvements have been completed, the homeowner is likely to experience:

- Reduced energy costs
- Improved health and safety of occupants
- Increased personal comfort
- Extended longevity of the building
- Reduced Carbon Footprint
- Increased house value



Funding to initiate this program was provided by the Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant received by the Village in 2009.

Equipment used during an Energy Assessment

The Energy Assessment is performed using state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment including:

- Combustion Gas Detector — Checks for leaks in your gas pipes.
- Combustion Analyzer — Tests your furnace, gas water heater, and gas stove for proper burning and a presence of carbon monoxide.
- Blower Door — A fan that simulates drafts experienced in 20 MPH winds to identify areas of air infiltration.
- Infrared Camera — Shows where drafts are entering your home.



What to expect during your home Energy Assessment

The Village Building Inspectors are certified in energy rating. The first thing they will do is sit down with you and review your past utility bills, talk about any concerns you may have with comfort, safety, and allergies. They will ask basic questions about your house and then perform the assessment.

Examples of items looked for during an Energy Assessment

- Measure levels of Carbon Monoxide and identify gas fuel leaks
- Combustion Safety Testing (Measuring the combustion states of your gas stove, heating system, and hot water heater)
- Proper venting of exhaust fans (Kitchen, Bathrooms, Dryer) and proper sealing (plumbing chases, recessed lighting, electrical areas)

The Energy Assessment will take 2½ to 3 hours to complete. Once completed, you will receive a report which includes suggestions for how you can make your home healthier, safer, more energy efficient, comfortable, and durable. You can do the improvements yourself, or hire a contractor to perform the work. After improvements are complete, the Energy Analyst will return to conduct the blower door test to determine how the improvements have helped.

Residential Energy Efficiency Resources

Online Home Energy Calculators

ENERGY STAR Home Energy Yardstick
www.energystar.gov

Home Energy Saver
www.hes.lbl.gov