

# HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR®



## What is Energy Star®?



**Energy Star®** is the government-sponsored program that helps us all save money and protect our environment with energy-efficient products and practices. Whether you are looking to replace old appliances, remodel your home or buy a new house, **Energy Star®** can help.

More than 40 different products, including lighting, appliances, televisions, computers, heating and cooling equipment, and even new homes, can earn the **Energy Star®** label. **Energy Star®** also offers best practice solutions, like home sealing and duct sealing, that can make your home more comfortable and reduce your energy costs.

Energy efficiency helps us make the most of our nation's energy resources and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Home Performance with **Energy Star®** offers a comprehensive, whole-house approach to making energy-efficient home improvements. Participating contractors provide recommendations and services to homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient and comfortable, while reducing their utility bills and protecting the environment.

## What to expect from Home Performance with Energy Star® ...

### DIAGNOSING THE PROBLEM

A contractor participating in a locally-sponsored Home Performance with **Energy Star®** program can help you cost-effectively improve your home's energy efficiency. These specially-trained contractors evaluate your home using state-of-the-art equipment and recommend comprehensive improvements that will yield the best results. These recommendations can benefit you by making your home more comfortable, saving energy and reducing levels of allergens like dust and pollen in your home.

Rather than focusing on a single component, such as drafty windows, old air conditioning system or leaky ductwork, the contractor will assess how improvements to all of these components can work together to provide:

- Fewer drafts
- Comfortable temperature distribution across rooms
- Better humidity control
- Proper ventilation
- Lower utility bills

### COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS

While your Home Performance Contractor will develop a specific plan for your home, commonly recommended solutions include:

#### Sealing Air Leaks and Adding Insulation

Many air leaks in homes are fairly obvious, such as around windows, doors and electrical outlets. But others, like those in attics, around chimneys and through recessed lighting fixtures, are often the more significant sources of energy loss in a home. Blocking and sealing air leaks is critical to the overall efficiency of your home and will make all of the other components deliver better performance.

Along with air sealing, your contractor may recommend adding insulation in your home. Many older homes are not well-insulated, and some have no insulation at all. Properly installed insulation in walls, floors and attics provides for more even temperatures throughout the house and results in a quieter, more comfortable living environment.

#### Improving Heating and Cooling Systems

If your furnace or air conditioner is more than 10 years old, your contractor may recommend that you replace it with a unit that has earned the **Energy Star®** rating. Installed correctly, these high-efficiency units can save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs. A properly-sized unit will make your home more comfortable by providing more consistent temperatures and better humidity control. Your contractor should also test combustion equipment, such as your gas furnace or water heater, to ensure that it is operating and venting properly.

### Sealing Ductwork

Most homes have leaky ductwork and insufficient air flow, resulting in an uncomfortable living environment – regardless of the thermostat setting. Your Home Performance Contractor may recommend sealing your home's ducts with mastic, metal tape or an aerosol-based sealant to balance the duct system to optimize air flow to all rooms. Insulating ductwork in attics, crawlspaces and some basements can also help make your home more comfortable.

### Upgrading Lighting and Appliances

Energy used for lighting and appliances can account for half of your home's total utility bill. As a result, your Home Performance Contractor may recommend **Energy Star®** qualified products, such as refrigerators, dishwashers, electronic equipment, light fixtures and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). An energy-efficient hot water system may also be recommended.

Once you have taken steps to improve your home's efficiency, you may also consider adding renewable energy systems, such as solar electric (photovoltaics) or solar water, to further reduce your utility bills.

If interested, listed below are the steps for participating in Home Performance with **Energy Star®**:

#### Step 1. Home Performance Assessment

A series of inspections and diagnostic tests, need to be conducted by a Home Performance Contractor who is BPI (Building Performance Institute) certified. The assessment can cost from \$250 to \$400.

#### Step 2. Costs of the Improvement

Once the assessment is completed, you will need to gather bids for the recommended improvements.

#### Step 3. Rebates

Boone Electric Cooperative is offering rebates to members. Additional rebates are available on the purchase of **Energy Star®**-qualified heating and cooling systems, including Dual Fuel and Ground Source Heat Pumps.

#### Step 4. Completing the Work

Improvements must be completed within one year from the date of inspection to receive the corresponding rebate(s).

*For more information on Home Performance with Energy Star®, other energy-saving tips, rebates on energy-saving heating and cooling solutions, and rebates on specific Energy Star® appliances, call Boone Electric Cooperative at (573) 449-4181.*

[www.dnr.mo.gov/homeperformance/](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/homeperformance/)

