



## Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program – Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program?

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program is a comprehensive home energy efficiency program that includes an initial audit, installation of energy efficiency measures, and a follow-up audit to verify reduced energy consumption in the home due to the installation of recommended improvements. Potomac Edison provides rebates for both the initial audit and the follow-up audit and for recommended improvements.

During the initial audit, a Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified contractor will perform the audit, evaluate your home's energy efficiency and recommend improvements that could save you energy and money while increasing the comfort of your home. These improvements include duct sealing, air sealing, insulation, and HVAC equipment upgrades..

### What happens during the initial home energy audit?

For \$100 (a \$400 value), a BPI-certified contractor will visit your home and identify energy-saving improvements you can make. The expert will evaluate your home's heating and cooling systems, insulation, windows and doors and conduct a blower door test to detect [air leaks](#) that could be costing you money. During the audit, energy-saving products may be installed at no additional cost to you.



The home energy expert will review the findings of the audit and provide you with a list of recommended improvements. You decide which improvements to make.

### What rebates are available as part of the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program?

There are opportunities to receive rebates of 75 percent – or up to \$7,500 per home – of the cost of selected energy efficient home improvements including duct sealing, air sealing, insulation, and HVAC equipment upgrades. Window replacements may qualify as part of the home improvement rebate if replacing the window achieves energy savings to the customer. Please consult with your auditor regarding the benefits of air sealing and window replacement prior to any work being performed.



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<http://energysavemd-home.com/home-performance>

**Are there specific requirements to qualify for the rebates?**

Yes, to qualify for the 75 percent rebate (up to \$7,500 maximum per home), the home must have an electric heating system as a primary heat source or a central air conditioning system. For complete rebate requirements, please reference the General Terms and Conditions section of the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR rebate application form.

**What energy-saving products will be installed as part of the home energy audit?**

Energy-saving products may be installed at no additional cost\* to you as part of the initial home energy audit. These products include up to 14 LED bulbs, kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators, water-saving showerheads, and water heater pipe insulation.

*\*These programs support the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act. Costs will be recovered through a monthly EmPOWER Maryland surcharge on customer bills. Participation in these programs can help offset this surcharge.*

**How much does the initial home energy audit cost?**

The fee for the initial home performance audit can cost up to \$400, but as a Potomac Edison residential customer, you can receive this audit for only \$100.

**What does it mean to be BPI-certified?**

The Building Performance Institute (BPI) is a non-profit developer of technical standards for home performance and weatherization retrofit work. BPI standards are recognized across North America. BPI is a resource for building science technology that sets standards for assessing and improving the energy performance as well as the health and safety of homes. Contractors who are BPI-certified have undergone training and testing to demonstrate the ability to do work in accordance with BPI standards.

**How can I find a BPI-certified participating contractor?**

You can find a participating BPI-certified contractor in your area by using the search tool found at <http://energysavemd-home.com/home-performance/home-energy-expert>.

**Will the contractor explain the findings from the audit?**

Yes, the contractor will explain the results of the home energy audit and recommend energy efficiency improvements you can make to your home. You may choose to implement some or all of the improvements.



### **What is a blower door test?**

A blower door test measures air leakage between the conditioned (heated and/or cooled) parts of your home and unconditioned areas (e.g., unheated attics, crawl spaces and the outdoors). In preparation for a blower door test, a powerful fan is mounted into the frame of an exterior door. The fan pulls air out of the home, reducing the internal air pressure, while outside air flows in through unsealed cracks and openings in your home. The data collected during a blower door test will allow the contractor to quantify the amount of air leakage in your home and suggest energy efficiency improvements you can make.



### **How long will it take to perform a home energy audit?**

A thorough home energy audit may take up to three hours to perform.

### **Do I need to be home during the home energy audit?**

Yes, the homeowner must be present during the home energy audit.

### **Who is eligible to participate in the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program?**

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program is available to Maryland residential customers of Potomac Edison.

### **What is the purpose of the follow-up or test-out audit?**

After you have made energy efficiency home improvements that were recommended during the initial audit, a follow-up audit will be conducted to verify the performance of the improvements. Based on the predicted energy savings for the selected energy efficiency home improvements, you can receive a rebate of 75 percent – up to \$7,500 maximum per home – towards the cost of eligible energy efficient home improvements.

### **What documentation should be submitted as part of the follow-up audit?**

After the home energy expert has verified that energy efficiency improvements have been made to your home, the contractor will assist you in completing the rebate application form. Sign and mail the completed application form, including paid sales receipts and the test out form, to the address provided on the application to request a rebate. Some contractors may submit all documentation on your behalf, check with the contractor as part of your decision process.

### **Can I also apply for a separate HVAC [heating and cooling] system rebate in addition to rebates offered as part of the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program?**

Customers may apply for a rebate for HVAC equipment replacement in either the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program OR the HVAC rebate program, but will not be eligible for both.



**Where can I get a rebate form?**

Rebate forms can be obtained from a participating home energy auditor or you can download the rebate form at <http://energysavemd-home.com/home-performance/rebate-applications>.

**Who will receive the rebate check?**

Rebate checks will be issued to the electric account holder at the mailing address on record with Potomac Edison.

**How long will it take to receive my rebate?**

Please allow up to 90 days from the date all required documentation is received to process your rebate.

**What's the first step I need to take to schedule a home energy audit?**

The first step to schedule a home energy audit is to find a participating home energy expert in your area by using our search tool at <http://energysavemd-home.com/home-performance/home-energy-expert>.

**Is there financing available to help pay for the energy-saving improvements?**

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is partnering with the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) with support from the U.S. Department of Energy to provide financing options for Maryland property owners. There are two interest rates available for eligible customers. A rate of 6.99 percent APR is available for consumers completing an energy audit and installing insulation and duct sealing measures. A rate of 9.99 percent APR is available for consumers completing equipment upgrades only, such as a furnace or HVAC unit that meet MCEC and ENERGY STAR standards. For more information, visit <http://www.mcecloans.com>.

**Who can I call with questions regarding Potomac Edison's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program?**

You may call **1-888-267-4685** (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to speak with a program representative.

