



Missouri Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

Energy Center fact sheet

8/2009

A drafty home, rooms that are too hot or too cold, and high energy bills are all common issues for homeowners. A quality installation of a new heating or air conditioning system, buying replacement windows, or adding more insulation may fix part of the problem. But the way to better results is through an integrated "whole-house" approach that looks at your house as a system.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center sponsors Home Performance with ENERGY STAR programs in three Missouri metropolitan areas. Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is a national program from the U.S. EPA and U.S. DOE that offers a comprehensive, whole-house approach to improving energy efficiency and comfort at home, while helping to protect the environment.

Missouri homeowners commonly have problems with drafty windows and doors, rooms that are too hot or too cold, high humidity and mold. Home Performance with ENERGY STAR offers a comprehensive approach to home improvement, remodeling, and renovation that will make your home more efficient and reduce energy costs, while improving indoor air quality and creating a more comfortable, healthier home. At the same time, you'll be helping to protect the environment through energy conservation.

A local contractor will help you to get the project done and let you know about any financial incentives that may be available. If you have questions about the program, or are ready to explore finding a contractor to perform a comprehensive home assessment, then you should contact a local Missouri Home Performance partner organization. There are currently three areas of Missouri that offer these services. Please contact the appropriate partner based on your location:

- **Columbia Area:** [Columbia Water & Light](#) – 573-874-7631
- **Kansas City Area:** [Metropolitan Energy Center](#) – 816-531-SAVE
- **St. Louis Area:** [EarthWays Center](#) – 314-577-0228

Diagnosing the Problem

Rather than focusing on a single component, such as single-paned windows, an old air conditioning system, or leaky ductwork, a participating contractor will assess how improvements to all of these components and other measures can work together to provide:

- fewer drafts
- consistent temperatures across rooms
- better ventilation and humidity control
- lower utility bills

Home Performance assessment is fully comprehensive. Items that are checked during every assessment include:

- insulation levels for all building components
- window types
- air leakage pathways with a blower door test
- efficiencies of heating, cooling, and water heating equipment
- duct system effectiveness with flow hood or a duct blaster test



- ventilation systems (dryer, kitchen range, bath exhausts)
- moisture management components (crawl space vapor barrier, gutters, yard slope)
- test for the possibility of backdrafting when gas-burning appliances are inside house

What kind of improvements might my house need?

Typical improvements recommended by Home Performance with ENERGY STAR include:

- air sealing the house
- adding insulation
- sealing or replacing the duct system
- replacing heating and cooling equipment
- improving windows
- installing or replacing dehumidification and ventilation systems
- addressing moisture issues in the crawl space or basement

Ensure Quality with Third-Party Verification

Missouri Home Performance provides quality control on the work of all participating contractors on their Home Performance with ENERGY STAR projects through spot-checking of contractors' assessments and completed home improvements to ensure they are following program protocols.

For More Information:

- **Visit the Missouri Home Performance Web site at:** www.missourihomeperformance.org
- **Contact one of the Missouri Home Performance local partners:**
 - **Columbia Area: Columbia Water & Light** – 573-874-7631
Web site: www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Home_Performance/homeperformance.php
 - **Kansas City Area: Metropolitan Energy Center** – 816-531-SAVE
Web site: www.kcenergy.org/hpeshome.html
 - **St. Louis Area: EarthWays Center** – 314-577-0228
Web site: www.earthwayscenter.org/homeperformance

Or Contact:

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 Web site: www.dnr.mo.gov/energy