

Energy Efficiency

Frequently Asked Questions

Who performs the “Comprehensive Home Energy Assessment”?

New York State requires the subsidized assessment to be performed by an approved, specially trained energy efficiency contractor.

What kind of changes might be recommended?

Typically, here in the Northeast, most homes benefit from improved insulation, air sealing, weather stripping, and caulking. Less frequently, you may need to repair or replace outdated heating or cooling systems. Your assessment will identify the specific energy efficiency opportunities in your home and give you information that will help you decide what makes sense for you like the how long each measure will take to pay for itself.

How do I know that I’ll save the amount (projected savings) the contractor says?

All of the details in the report have to be approved by NYSERDA, before it is shown to you. The contractor takes the measurements from your home energy assessment, runs the data through a modeling software that calculates payments and return-on-investment, and then submits it to NYSERDA for approval. They can only present these numbers to you once a third party overseer has validated them. Many installers will repeat efficiency tests after the installation to show their results.

Are there incentives to help pay for energy efficiency improvements?

Income qualified homeowners making energy efficiency improvements through the [Assisted Home Performance Program](#) can qualify for up to 50% subsidy. Those qualified for the [EmPower NY Program](#) receive 100% free improvements. The HeatSmart staff can give you a private phone consultation to determine your eligibility, or simply click the program links to see income limits.

How long does the work typically take?

Energy improvement measures usually take between 2 – 3 days to complete and usually are not invasive to family life. Most work takes place between the walls of your home, in the basement and in the attic.