

What to Expect of the Residential Energy Assessment Service

Note: Only homes that have been evaluated using Natural Resources Canada's residential energy assessment service are eligible for grants under the federal ecoENERGY program.

How to prepare for the day of your evaluation:

- Plan to have a homeowner responsible for making decisions for the household present.
- The homeowner will need to sign a form consenting to have pictures of the home taken, and consenting to the sharing of information with NRCan and any partners who may be offering complementary grants.
- Have a recent property tax bill available to your advisor to photograph so that you can qualify for the \$150 provincial rebate towards the cost of the evaluation.
- If you have a wood burning furnace or appliance, be sure not to use it for at least 24 hours before your appointment and blower door test. Clean the ashes from the furnace, fireplace or wood-burning stove to prevent them from being disturbed during operation of the blower door.
- Ensure there is clear access to all areas of your home, including your attic. Please move any items that would block access to the attic hatch, as the energy advisor will need to look in the attic to check the insulation level.

NRCan's residential energy assessment service includes:

1. A detailed energy evaluation of your home carried out by a licensed energy advisor:

The energy advisor will measure your home, record data regarding its construction, check the efficiency of heating, cooling and domestic hot water systems, check the condition of your doors and windows, and check the level of insulation in your attic, foundation and exterior walls.

2. A "blower door" test is conducted to find air leaks:

A big fan will be installed in your entrance door to depressurize your house by forcing air from inside the home to the outdoors. The pressure exerted on the house is quite small - about 50 Pa – which, in comparison, is the suction pressure required to lift a column of water up a soda straw only one-quarter of an inch. Creating that pressure difference between inside and outside simulates a 56 km/hr wind blowing on the home from all directions, at the same time, which makes it easier to identify areas of air leakage.

3. A printed report that shows where your energy dollars are being spent and what you can do to improve your home's energy efficiency:

A written report will be sent to you within 14 days of the evaluation, indicating the house components with the greatest heat loss, as well as recommended solutions to reduce that heat loss.