



Certified Energy Advisor Steve Outlet of the Arctic Energy Alliance conducts a blower door test to determine the air tightness of a home as part of a Home Energy Evaluation in Tsiigehtchic.

Question of the Month

Does it still make good sense to get a Home Energy Evaluation even though the federal government has cut funding for the ecoENERGY program?

Answer:

Absolutely! A Home Energy Evaluation is a great way to discover ways you can improve the energy efficiency of your home.

This will save you money on your electricity and heating bills – and remember, these are not one-time savings. These savings will carry forward month-after-month and year-after-year for as long as you own your home!

Not only will these improvements make your home warm and comfortable, they'll also reduce your greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

And if that's not incentive enough, the NWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is making up for some of the lost federal funding by offering more rebates through its [Energy Efficiency Incentive Program](#) (EEIP).

For example, there are \$40 rebates for the purchase* and installation of [ENERGY STAR®](#) Climate Zone D exterior doors and windows. There's also a \$165 rebate for the purchase and installation of a new wastewater heat recovery (WWHR) system with an efficiency of 42 per cent or higher. Various rebates are also available for purchasing and installing qualifying insulation. *(Please note that the values of these rebates are still being finalized by the GNWT and are subject to change.)*

So, what is a Home Energy Evaluation? It's a group of tests conducted by the Arctic Energy Alliance's Certified Energy Advisors that measure energy usage in your house. The evaluation will give your home an overall rating from 0 to 100. A house that wastes energy will get a poor rating near 50. An energy efficient house will get a good rating near 80.

The evaluation will also recommend things the homeowner can fix or change. These upgrades will save you money and energy – and reduce your GHG emissions.

When the Certified Energy Advisor tests your home, he or she will be trying to answer questions such as:

- Does your home stay warm in winter? Do you have air leaks? How much insulation do you have?
- How do you heat your home? Does your heating system work well? How could it work better?
- How do you make hot water? Does your hot water system work well? How could it work better?
- What kind of lights and appliances do you have? Could they be more energy efficient?

By investing wisely in your house and spending less money over time on heat and electricity, you'll not only be making your home more comfortable and healthy – you'll be saving money that you can use to pay off your mortgage quicker or do other home repairs.

If you're interested in booking a Home Energy Evaluation, please call the Arctic Energy Alliance at 920-3333 if you're in Yellowknife** or toll-free 1-877-755-5855 from anywhere else in the NWT. You can also request an evaluation through the [Arctic Energy Alliance's website](#).

A Home Energy Evaluation costs \$150 plus GST.

** Rebates are for purchases made after March 31, 2010.*

Arctic Energy Alliance: Taking action on high heating and power bills, high transportation costs, and climate change!