

WHAT IS AN ENERGY STAR HOME?

ENERGY STAR certified homes are typically 15% more energy efficient than a standard home built to the IECC code. ENERGY STAR certified homes are inspected by a Home Energy Rater and assigned an energy performance score. Scores range from 500 to 0; lower scores mean better efficiency. Homes in Michigan must attain 80 or 85 (depending on location) to qualify for ENERGY STAR.

This is what Michigan home buyers have said about their Energy Star Homes:

“What a difference it is. My gas bills are ½ what they were.”

“The money saved on energy costs, and the comfort gained makes even working towards a 5 star very worthwhile.”



WHY SHOULD YOU BUY AN ENERGY STAR HOME?

- **Energy Cost Savings**
- **Quality Construction**
- **Comfort**
- **Environment**
- **Healthy Indoor Space**

Energy Cost Savings – A typical ENERGY STAR home can reduce energy bills by \$400 a year.



How Does ENERGY STAR Save Money? – Builders incorporate strict efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency into ENERGY STAR Homes. Typically they incorporate features like effective insulation, high-performance windows, and efficient heating/cooling equipment. An ENERGY STAR home is built to improve comfort and indoor air quality.

Comfort – An ENERGY STAR home is more comfortable because drafts and cold spots are eliminated.

Environment – Inefficient energy use leads to pollution. Typical Michigan homes produce over 28,000 pounds of Carbon Dioxide each year. ENERGY STAR homes emit 70% less! More efficient use of energy also reduces harmful Sulfur Oxides, Nitrogen Oxides, and Mercury.

Health Benefits – Enhanced ventilation and tight construction improve indoor air quality. ENERGY STAR standards work to prevent moisture penetration inside the home.

Energy Efficient Mortgages – ENERGY STAR homes qualify for energy efficient mortgages (EEM's). A certified Home Energy Rater helps your lender translate monthly energy savings into a specific dollar amount. That value allows the borrower to stretch the mortgage's debt-to-income ratio. A list of mortgage companies in Michigan that offer EEM's is available at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice under "residential".

Information Resources

Energy Office, Michigan Dept. of
Labor & Economic Growth
www.michigan.gov/energyoffice

Energy Efficiency & Renewable
Energy, U.S. Dept. of Energy
1-877-337-3463
www.eere.energy.gov

ENERGY STAR Programs
1-888-STAR-YES
www.energystar.gov

Michigan Energy
Demonstration Centers
www.warmtraining.org/medc

Home Smart
www.home-smart.org

Simply Insulate
www.simplyinsulate.com/savings

Consumer Web Sites
www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/building_america/for_consumers_top_sites.html



ENERGY STAR Homes

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LOWER ENERGY
BILLS

+

MORE COMFORT

+

CLEANER AIR



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Energy Office
www.michigan.gov/energyoffice