HOME ENERGY DETECTIVE

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________

What type of house do you live in?
[ ] Stick Built Home  [ ] Manufactured Home  [ ] Apartment/Multifamily Home

What year was your house built? _________________ How many people live in your home? _________________

What type of heating system do you have in your house? ________________________________

What’s the fuel source for your heating system? [ ] Electricity [ ] Natural Gas [ ] Propane [ ] Wood [ ] Other

How much does that fuel cost? _________________ What kind of water heater do you have? __________________

How many kilowatt-hours of electricity did your house use last month? ____________________

Do you have a high-performance, low-flow showerhead? (Less than 2.0 gallons per minute)
[ ] No. (-1 pt.)
[ ] I don’t know (0 pts.)
[ ] Yes. (3 pts.)

How long do you take in the shower?
[ ] I take baths, not showers (-2 pts.)
[ ] 10 minutes or more (-1 pt.)
[ ] 5-10 minutes (1 pt.)
[ ] 5 minutes or less (2 pts.)

What temperature is your water heater set to?
[ ] 120 degrees (5 pts.)
[ ] 130 degrees (1 pt.)
[ ] 140 degrees (0 pts.)
[ ] 150 degrees or higher (-5 pts.)

When you do laundry, how full are your loads?
[ ] Mainly small loads. (0 pts.)
[ ] Mainly large loads, but some are small. (1 pt.)
[ ] Usually full loads. (2 pts.)

How do you wash your dishes?
[ ] Load a dishwasher until it’s full, then run it. (3 pts.)
[ ] Wash dishes under a running faucet. (0 pt.)
[ ] Wash dishes in a sink with a drain stopper. (2 pts.)

At your refrigerator: Close the door over a piece of paper so it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. Try and pull the paper out.
[ ] The paper falls out of the refrigerator. (0 pts.)
[ ] The paper is easy to pull out of the refrigerator. (1 pt.)
[ ] The paper is hard to pull out of the refrigerator. (2 pts.)
How often do you turn off the lights when you leave a room?
[ ] Rarely. (-1 pt.)
[ ] Sometimes. (1 pt.)
[ ] Always. (3 pts.)

Count the number of lights inside and outside your house. Make notes about what kind of bulb is in each socket: incandescent, halogen, compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), or LED.
TOTAL INCANDESCENTS: _____________
TOTAL HALOGENS: _____________
TOTAL CFLS: _____________
TOTAL LEDS: _____________
[ ] You have more incandescent or halogens than CFLs or LEDs. (-5 pts.)
[ ] You have CFLs and LEDs in high traffic areas in your home. (3 pts.)
[ ] Your whole house has CFLs or LEDs in every fixture. (5 pts.)
[ ] Over half of your house has LEDs. (10 pts.)

TIP: CFLs use about 75% less energy than incandescent light bulbs. LEDs use about 90% less energy than incandescents! CFLs must be disposed of and recycled properly. You can drop used CFLs off at any PUD 3 location.

How often were your furnace or heating system filters cleaned or changed in the last year?
[ ] Not at all. (-1 pt.)
[ ] 1-3 times. (3 pts.)
[ ] 4 or more times. (5 pts.)

TIP: Be sure your heating system is operating at maximum efficiency by cleaning or replacing the filters frequently. Heat pumps should be serviced annually by a heating technician.

Is the temperature setting on your thermostat above or below the following levels?
WINTER (HEATING): SUMMER (COOLING, if applicable):
[ ] 75 degrees or higher. (0 pts.) [ ] 75 degrees or lower. (0 pts.)
[ ] 69 – 74 degrees. (1 pt.) [ ] 75 – 77 degrees. (1 pt.)
[ ] 68 degrees or lower. (3 pts.) [ ] 78 degrees or higher. (3 pts.)

TIP: A programmable thermostat can help reduce your heating and cooling bills. Programmable thermostats should never be set to “auto”. If you want heat, set it to heating mode. If you want cooling, set it to cooling mode. Leaving it in auto mode can lead to the system cycling between settings while searching for a balance point.

How often do you close the door when you go outside to play?
[ ] Rarely. (-1 pts.)
[ ] Sometimes. (1 pt.)
[ ] Always. (3 pts.)

Attic Insulation: Use a ruler to measure how much insulation you have in your attic area.
(Or, take a look under your home if you don’t have an attic.)
[ ] 6 inches or less. (0 pts.)
[ ] 7-11 inches. (2 pts.)
[ ] 12 inches or more. (5 pts.)

TIP: If you have less than 12 inches of insulation in your attic, you probably need more. Improving your home’s insulation is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce energy usage.
www.pud3.org/insulation

Windows: How many layers of glass do your windows have?
[ ] Single-pane windows. (0 pts.)
[ ] Double-pane windows. (2 pts.)
[ ] Double-pane windows that are gas-filled, or have low-E reflective coating. (3 pts.)

TIP: During colder months, cover single-pane windows, including the entire frame, with a clear plastic film on the inside to slow down the loss of warm air to the outside.

How often do you turn off the TV or computer when you’re not using it?
[ ] Rarely. (-1 pts.)
[ ] Sometimes. (1 pt.)
[ ] Always. (3 pts.)

TIP: If you have less than 12 inches of insulation in your attic, you probably need more. Improving your home’s insulation is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce energy usage.

**HOW YOU SCORED:**

45 or more points: Congratulations. You home is very energy efficient!
25 – 44 points: Your home is getting close! Review the quiz and tips to see how to make your home more energy efficient. Then make some changes to your home and lifestyle.
24 points or lower: Look for ways to improve areas that scored low on your test. After making these changes, take the test again to see how simple improvements have increased your home’s energy efficiency.