

ENERGY FIT HOMESSM CERTIFICATION

Energy Fit Homes is a certificate program that provides an indicator of basic home energy efficiency and relevant safety in existing homes. Delivered at a significantly lower cost than other sustainability certifications, it is customized for existing homes and focuses on energy efficient upgrades that are cost-effective to the homeowner - all in all, the only certification of its kind.

Energy Fit Homes is intended to be a time of sale tool for both homebuyers and sellers. When selling a home, the certificate may increase the home's value and could be used as a marketing tool to provide an edge in the real estate market. For homebuyers, it offers assurance that the home is energy efficient so they can focus more on other aspects of homeownership.

Energy Fit Homes can add value to the customer experience by increasing awareness of utility usage for homebuyers and connecting with post-sale clients about this unique opportunity.

Energy Fit HomesSM is a certificate program administered by the Center for Energy and Environment in partnership with the Neighborhood Energy Connection that is designed specifically for existing homes in Minnesota and is focused exclusively on energy use. Certified homes have reached a basic standard of energy efficiency, with all improvements done to meet Energy Fit Homes health and safety standards.

FOR MORE INFO
PLEASE CONTACT

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MNENERGYFIT.ORG



Neighborhood Energy Connection
making energy conservation easy

A REALTOR[®]'S GUIDE *to* ENERGY FIT HOMES

A blue-tinted photograph of a house with a 'FOR SALE' sign in the foreground. The sign is white with blue text and is mounted on a wooden post. The house has a porch and a gabled roof.



Energy
Fit HomesSM



BENEFITS

Energy efficiency is seen as a benefit to homeowners. It reduces the energy consumption of a home, lowering utility bills and helping homeowners save money. This fact, in and of itself, demonstrates how Energy Fit HomesSM could add value to the real estate industry.

- **Factor into purchase decision**

Many homebuyers consider the cost of heating and cooling somewhat important when buying a home (National Assoc. of Realtors®, 2011). Energy Fit Homes could solidify the decision to make an offer on one particular home over another.

- **Add value to customer experience**

The more information you have at your disposal, the more value you provide the customer. With an Energy Fit Homes certified property, you can share exactly how the house will provide greater comfort and less cost to the homeowners.

- **Support property value**

Green-certified homes sold for 8.5% more per square foot than their uncertified counterparts (USA Today, 2012). With Energy Fit Homes, you have one more tool to explain why a home is valued at its listed price.

HOW TO QUALIFY

1. Schedule a home assessment

During the home assessment, an auditor will conduct an on-site inspection, evaluating the performance and efficiency of five main areas of the home:

- Heating system
- Insulation and air sealing
- Windows
- Lighting
- Ventilation and combustion safety

The cost of the home assessment varies by city. Homeowners can contact us for more information.

2. Complete any necessary upgrades

At the home assessment, the auditor will provide a list of upgrades necessary to achieve an Energy Fit Homes certificate.

3. Prepare your application

After all recommended upgrades have been completed, the homeowner submits an application along with any required documentation. An Energy Fit Homes certificate will be rewarded upon verification.



RESOURCES

- Materials that describe the benefits of the certification to potential home buyers (perfect for home showings).
- Home assessment coupons for your clients so they can better understand their home's energy use and get started with the certification process.
- Low interest financing for homeowners available through the Lending Center at CEE.
- Group presentations are available to further explain Energy Fit Homes.
- A goal to be available on the North Star MLS by 2015 to expand the reach of Energy Fit Homes.

