

Energy Audit Helpful

Are you a Columbia Gas customer? You can schedule an energy audit to analyze your home to identify ways you can make your home more energy efficient. We just had an audit done and, for only \$50 (a close to \$400 value), the audit was very thorough. Here is what the audit, performed by a representative from Conservation Service Group, covers:

A blower door locates and measures air leaks throughout the home. A combustion efficiency analyzer checks gas stoves, gas furnaces and water heaters for safety and efficiency and for carbon monoxide. Infrared photography pinpoints areas of inadequate insulation leaks, air leaks and other problems. Now let me tell you, that is a complete home energy check. Our auditor, Paul, was there for close to 2 ½ hours checking the house from top to bottom.

The audit results can identify improvements that can be made which could include attic and wall insulation upgrades, sealing cracks, gaps and holes, high-efficiency gas furnace or boiler upgrades, programmable thermostat and a high-performance, energy-efficient showerhead installation—these last two items are actually installed at no charge if needed!

The best thing is that there are major rebates offered for any work that is recommended. For instance, the \$50 audit fee is reimbursed, discounts are offered on insulation, air sealing and heating systems. Bonus rebates are available when more than one qualified energy efficiency improvement is installed. Additional rebates are available for income-eligible customers, plus Federal Energy Tax Credits may apply as well. These are really great offers.

Our results indicated we could use more insulation in our attic hatch door and around our hot water tank in the basement—both fixes which we can do on our own. The process was really informative and a great value. Had we needed the shower head and thermostat, that would have been an even better deal! (We already had them). Had we needed other work done, our auditor would have provided us with a list of recommended pre-qualified contractors who would have given us itemized written estimates on the work.

Why does Columbia Gas offer this program? According to a company representative, they want to help customers save money on natural gas costs and reduce their carbon footprint by becoming more energy efficient. It is a part of their “Lose 10 in 2010”—a Delaware Energy Challenge to reduce energy use 10 percent by the end of 2010. The energy audit program delivers the additional benefit of helping reduce customers’ water bills and summer cooling bills—a win-win for Columbia Gas, their customers and the environment.

To schedule your energy audit, call 1-877-644-6674. For more information, visit ColumbiaGasOhio.com/HPS. Why not give it a try?

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