

WORKING WITH AN ENERGY ADVISOR

YOUR EXISTING HOME / RETROFIT ASSESSMENT ROADMAP

STEP 1: HOUSE EVALUATION/VERIFICATION:

An Energy Advisor (EA) will conduct a site visit to take measurements and photos, and perform an air leakage test. They need access to all rooms of the home. An evaluation of an existing home considers:

- dimensions and measurements of the building envelope
- exterior wall construction (ability to keep the heat in)
- foundation type and insulation (ability to keep the heat in)
- window construction (heat lost through glazing)
- ceiling and attic insulation (ability to keep heat in)
- mechanicals (heating, AC, ventilation, water heaters, etc.)
- air leakage rate (how many times you reheat your home's air/hour)
- a-typical loads (large appliances that consume a lot of power)

STEP 2: UPGRADE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Computer modelling allows an EA to identify areas for improvement based on highest impact related to a client's wants and needs. It can be hard to know which upgrade to begin first, especially when working within a budget. Your EA can offer an invaluable renovation path that considers both the existing building and your upgrade goals. They are able to consider options that prioritize the most cost-effective route, best value for resale and/or available rebates.

STEP 3: REBATES:

A follow-up evaluation (e.g., post-retrofit audit: air tightness test and verification of upgrades) is typically required to apply for rebates or grant programs. EA's can also assist with the proper documentation of paperwork for this part of the process.

YOUR EXISTING HOME / RETROFIT CHECKLIST – Modelling Information Requirements

MEASUREMENTS:

- Geometry (size and shape) of the house with floor plan per level.
- All vaulted ceilings. Ideally with a cross section for each.
- All building envelope assemblies with actual or estimated insulation values.
- Compass direction the home faces.

VENTILATION:

- Type of system and location, e.g., HRV (bathroom fan); forced air fan.

DOORS AND WINDOWS:

- Door and window sizes and window operation.
- Type of windows, e.g., vinyl / wood frame casement; sliders.
- U-value and/or other performance ratings of the windows. *If unknown, your EA can assign assumptions.*

HEATING AND COOLING:

- System types, e.g., heat pump, gas forced air, boiler, wood stove.

YOUR EXISTING HOME / RETROFIT CHECKLIST – Air Leakage Testing

- Don't light fireplaces. They must be cold and clean for testing.
- Clear access to the attic hatch so the EA can see the attic insulation.
- Clear access to crawl spaces so the EA can access them.
- Don't seal off vents or other openings normally left open.
- Close all dampers.
- Shut off all gas-fired appliances.
- Shut off all ventilation and fans.
- All openings are sealed, e.g., no open / broken windows.
- Don't turn up the furnace thermostat, take a bath / shower, run the dishwasher, or use washing machine and/or dryer.
- Occupants are prepared to stay in or out for min. 30 minutes.
- An adult with a knowledge of the home must be present.

THE BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH AN ENERGY ADVISOR

Energy Advisors (EA) are knowledgeable efficiency and sustainability professionals – helping homeowners, renovators and builders make **GOOD** decisions – and where house components work together, and a home is safe, comfortable, efficient and durable. They are **YOUR** partner to successfully navigate a challenging and ever-changing landscape.

With an uncertain energy market, a growing sense of environmental responsibility and expanded government regulations, there is an increased focus to ensure homes are sustainable, comfortable, and efficient. **EAs are energy efficiency and building science professionals**, registered with, and licensed by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to deliver the EnerGuide Rating System (ERS) – a standardized system, using a recognized rating tool, that is frequently referenced as a requirement for programs. EAs provide impartial, third-party verification and rate single dwellings, townhomes and low rise, multi-unit buildings energy efficiency.

EAs view the ‘house as a system’ where every part of the home works together to achieve an optimal result. They have a broad variety of knowledge and expertise: building/construction approaches, materials and technologies; energy consumption patterns; current and pending regulations and incentive programs; etc.

EAs can provide EnerGuide Rating System services with reporting for existing homes which includes the in person Pre-retrofit (“D” audit) evaluation; modelling home’s current level of efficiency; create a report with recommended improvements; and the in person Post-retrofit (“E”) verification follow up. However, **it is ideal to leverage an EA’s expertise to go beyond the “basic audit service.” Further engage your EA take the time with you** to review your renovation upgrade report (RUR); identify areas that require your attention; explore additional opportunities for your home; and create a personalized roadmap that will result in a comfortable, healthier, sustainable, resilient, and more efficient home.

Your home is one of your biggest assets. Go a step further – take advantage of the knowledge and expertise that your Energy Advisor can bring, so that you are better equipped to make smart and informed decisions that will not only enhance your investment – it will result in a better living environment for you and your family.

Find an Energy Advisor* at <https://cacea.ca/find-an-energy-advisor/>

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