



CHANGE FOR THE  
BETTER WITH  
ENERGY STAR

U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency



EPA 430-F-03-023 April 2004

*"I would recommend ENERGY STAR to anyone looking to buy a new home. If this house weren't ENERGY STAR rated, I wouldn't have bought it."*

David Vidal, Homeowner  
Las Vegas, NV

*"Our subcontractors send their best crews because they know their work will be inspected."*

Astoria Homes, Las Vegas, NV  
ENERGY STAR Builder Partner

*"The expense of heating and cooling a home is a major part of the cost of home ownership. By participating in the ENERGY STAR Program, we've drastically lowered this expense and been able to deliver what homebuyers really want—affordable value."*

Michael B. Davis, President, Davis Homes  
ENERGY STAR Builder Partner  
Indianapolis, IN

*"Our ENERGY STAR home met so many needs. We wanted lots of light, a tight house, and low cooling bills. We got exactly that—ENERGY STAR really does work!"*

Sam and Churice Westbrook, Homeowners  
Avondale, AZ

*"My biggest selling point for buying an ENERGY STAR home was resale value. I would highly recommend ENERGY STAR to anyone because it will definitely save them money in the long run."*

Barry Ellison, Homeowner/Architect  
Las Vegas, NV

*"As consumers become more educated and familiar with all of these benefits that energy efficiency has to offer, in 5 years non-ENERGY STAR rated homes will become functionally obsolete."*

Karl Sayles, Darty Appraisal Service  
Melrose, FL





## WHAT IS ENERGY STAR®?

ENERGY STAR is the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency. The mark identifies new homes and more than 50 types of products that are energy efficient and offer the features, quality, and performance that today's consumers expect. Products that can earn the ENERGY STAR include appliances, lighting, home office equipment, consumer electronics, and heating and cooling equipment.

A home that earns the ENERGY STAR is significantly more efficient than a standard home. By purchasing an ENERGY STAR qualified home, you can have all the features you desire in your new home, plus lower utility bills—all while helping to prevent greenhouse gas emissions.

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary partnership between the government and more than 8,000 organizations, including 3,500 of the nation's home builders. Together with home buyers and their families, we are working to achieve a common goal—protecting the environment for future generations by changing to more energy-efficient practices today.

It's our future. Together, we can make a change for the better. In 2005, Americans with the help of ENERGY STAR saved about \$12 billion on their utility bills and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 23 million vehicles.

## HOW DO HOMES QUALIFY AS ENERGY STAR?

Homes that earn the ENERGY STAR are significantly more energy efficient than standard homes,<sup>1</sup> incorporating a variety of features, including

### EFFECTIVE INSULATION

Properly installed and inspected insulation in floors, walls, and attics ensures even temperatures throughout the house, while using less energy. The result is lower utility costs and a quieter, more comfortable home.

### HIGH-PERFORMANCE WINDOWS

Windows with advanced coatings and construction help keep heat in during winter and out during summer. They also block damaging ultraviolet sunlight that can discolor carpets and furnishings.

### TIGHT CONSTRUCTION AND TIGHT DUCTS

Advanced techniques for sealing holes and cracks in the home's "envelope" and in heating and cooling ducts help reduce drafts, moisture, dust, pollen, pests, and noise. A tightly sealed home improves comfort and indoor air quality, while lowering utility and maintenance costs.

### MORE EFFICIENT HEATING AND COOLING EQUIPMENT

Energy-efficient, properly installed heating and cooling systems use less energy, which reduces utility bills. You can expect higher quality and greater durability backed by longer warranties now available on many models.

### INDEPENDENT TESTING

While it's easy for builders to claim that their homes are energy efficient, ENERGY STAR partners back that up with a third-party inspection to verify the home's energy performance.

ENERGY STAR qualified homes also undergo an additional comprehensive inspection of insulation and air sealing details to ensure that they deliver the full comfort and energy savings they are designed to achieve.

<sup>1</sup> ENERGY STAR qualified homes are at least 15% more energy efficient than homes built to the 2004 International Residential Code (IRC).



## ENERGY STAR QUALIFIED HOMES HOME OWNER BENEFITS

### PEACE OF MIND

Home buying is complex enough without having to know all the details of energy-efficient construction. Instead, look for the government-backed ENERGY STAR to easily identify homes that are truly energy efficient. Find the house of your dreams and enjoy peace of mind knowing that it also meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### LOWER OWNERSHIP COST

Compared with standard construction, ENERGY STAR qualified homes use substantially less energy for heating, cooling, and water heating—delivering \$200 to \$400 in annual savings. Over the average 7 to 8 years you may live in your home, this adds up to thousands of dollars saved on utility bills. Additional savings on maintenance can also be substantial.

### BETTER PERFORMANCE

Properly installed energy-efficient improvements deliver better protection against cold, heat, drafts, moisture, pollution, and noise. An energy-efficient home helps to ensure consistent temperatures between and across rooms, improved indoor air quality, and greater durability.

### SMART INVESTMENT

To date, 3,500 home builders have partnered with EPA to construct more than 650,000 ENERGY STAR qualified homes. By the end of the decade, more than 2 million homes are expected to earn the ENERGY STAR. The trend is clear. By choosing a home with the ENERGY STAR, you can be confident that it will have an increasingly valued feature when the time comes to sell.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Did you know that your home can be a greater source of pollution than your car? In fact, about 17 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are generated from the energy used in houses nationwide.

Energy used in our homes often comes from the burning of fossil fuels at power plants, which contributes to smog, acid rain, and global warming. Simply put, the less energy we use in our homes, the less air pollution we generate.

Homes that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



**ENERGY STAR**



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PROTECTION AGENCY  
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