

Energy Audits

The MSHDA MI-HOPE program requires energy audits/assessments provided by a professional certified energy auditor or equivalent professional, to determine which energy upgrade has the best annual energy saving for any home or project. Equivalent professionals must have the ability to prescribe energy upgrades and substantiate annual energy savings.

The following document has a list of professional audit types and/or software options that can help subrecipients determine energy savings per assisted household depending on which construction elements are undertaken.

Utilizing professional energy auditors is the preferred method to identify energy upgrades and measure potential savings through scientific methods, blower door, inferred cameras, and energy rating software. NOTE: Subrecipients are urged to either find an energy auditor servicing their region or enroll a qualified rehabilitation specialist in an accredited energy auditor training program.

[Find a Pro - GreenHome Institute](#)

[39014 CE-DTE NH HERS Rater Directory v02 Web Release.pdf \(consumersenergytradeally.com\)](#)

NOTE: The Green Home Institute has a streamlined training program available for qualified individuals to become a certified energy auditor utilizing the Home Energy Score system. [Learn - GreenHome Institute](#)

Professional Energy Auditors

- NEAT- “Normally utilized by Community Action Agencies.”
- HERS- Home Energy Rating System: A nationally recognized holistic view of the energy usage incorporating performance testing.
- Utility Company energy rater programs, Consumers Energy, DTE etc. [Home Performance with ENERGY STAR[®] | Consumers Energy](#)
- Home Energy Score: US Department of Energy’s home energy score assesses the energy efficiency of a home based on its structure, heating, cooling, and hot water systems. [Home Energy Score | Department of Energy](#)
- BPI Energy Auditor: Home Energy Professional [Energy Auditor | Building Performance Institute, Inc. \(bpi.org\)](#)

Equivalent Professionals

- ICC certified residential housing inspectors.
- Local Building Officials
- Certified Housing Rehabilitation Network Specialist: associated with The Michigan Community Development Association (MCDA)
- Energy Star qualified Michigan Residential Builders

Energy Audit Software & Apps

- U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Saver Tool; NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, SITE UNDERGOING MAINTENANCE. [Site undergoing maintenance \(lbl.gov\)](#)
- Energy Star Home Energy Yardstick: Utilizes actual address data. [ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager: Home Energy Yardstick \(HEY\)](#)

- HomeSelfe Software/App: [HomeSelfe - Lower Bills, Get Rebates](#)

Please contact Jim Davis for assistance finding a professional home energy auditor within your region or to learn more about Green Home Institute (Home Energy Score) energy auditor certification.

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MI-HOPE Energy Upgrade Activities

1. Roofing-NOTE: Roofing only projects are required to have attic energy audits completed to determine energy functionality of the roof system: Insulation, ventilation, and air sealing around penetrations. Gutters and down spouts are required on roof only projects to protect from wetting foundations and basements.
2. Storm Doors/Exterior Doors
3. Windows
4. Insulation
5. Modification for modernization/efficiency purposes or replacement of heating (furnaces or boilers)/cooling (full home only)/ventilation systems and water heater upgrades including on demand retrofitting.
6. Functioning and up to date exterior security lighting- NOTE: No energy audit needed for exterior lighting upgrades.
7. Appliance upgrades to energy star rating. NOTE: No energy audit needed for kitchen appliances. Utilize Energy Star Energy Guide for annual energy savings per appliance and/or Energy Cost Calculator.
[Energy cost calculator \(rapidtables.com\)](#)
[Calculate the power consumption of your electrical appliances - Electrical Usage Calculator \(energyusecalculator.com\)](#)
[Why Energy Efficiency Upgrades | Department of Energy](#)
8. Electrical Upgrades- Electrical upgrades must be tied to the installation of other eligible energy upgrades such as new furnaces, whole home air conditioners, on demand or larger water heaters, whole house generators etc. A new service panel or breakers or other electrical upgrades may be needed to accommodate new appliances. Code officials may call for additional wiring depending on state and local code requirements.

MI-HOPE Energy Outcome Reporting

Outcome reporting must be measured and verified annual energy savings. This can be done by one or more of the following:

- Professional Energy Auditor
- Equivalent Professional with verifiable methods
- Actual Annual Energy Bill Comparison
- Energy Audit Software or Apps
- Energy Star Appliance Energy Guide-Operating Cost & Energy Guide Comparison of Similar Models.