

# Green Homes and Energy Efficiency



Solar Installation

Energy efficiency is on everyone's mind lately. From higher gas prices to higher utility bills, people all over the country are feeling the pinch. Home builders in the Tri-State are responding to this trend by increasingly building homes that incorporate a variety of energy-efficient features, such as high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment, high-performance windows, and energy-efficient lighting and appliances.



## Selling your home?

Consider updating your appliances such as your dishwasher, microwave and refrigerator to ENERGY STAR labeled versions if you are leaving them with the home. Also, in future upgrades consider a high efficiency AC or Ground Source Heat Pump.



Proper Insulation will be flush against the drywall and filling the whole wall cavity



Improper insulation would have compression, gaps, etc.

But how can homebuyers know for sure if the home they are buying is really energy efficient? By looking for the ENERGY STAR label. ENERGY STAR, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, identifies new homes and over 50 different types of consumer products that meet strict guidelines for superior energy efficiency. To earn the ENERGY STAR label, a home must be at least 15% more energy efficient than homes built to the 2004 International Residential Code, and include additional energy-saving features that typically make them 20–30% more efficient than standard homes. This level of performance is verified by an independent Home Energy Rater.

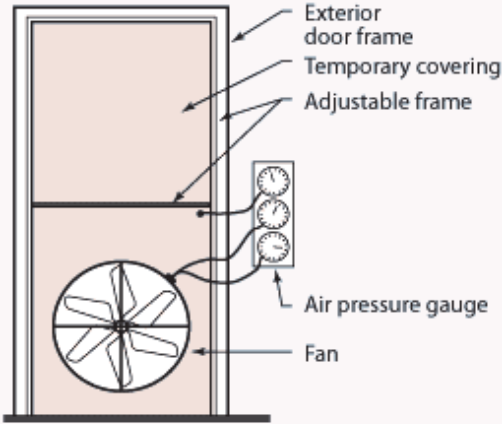
ENERGY STAR qualified homes offer homebuyers all the features they want in a new home, plus lower utility bills

### What should homebuyers look for first in a green home?

- **An Efficient Home Envelope**, with effective levels of wall, floor and attic insulation properly installed, comprehensive air barrier details, and high-performance windows;
- **Efficient Air Distribution**, where ducts are installed with minimum air leakage and are effectively insulated;
- **Efficient Equipment** for heating, cooling, and water heating;
- **Efficient Lighting**, including fixtures that earn the ENERGY STAR; and
- **Efficient Appliances**, including ENERGY STAR qualified dishwashers, refrigerators, and clothes washers.

## Diagnostic Tools

Testing the airtightness of a home using a special fan called a blower door can help to ensure that air sealing work is effective. Often, energy efficiency incentive programs, such as the DOE/ EPA ENERGY STAR Program, require a blower door test (usually performed in less than an hour) to confirm the tightness of the house.



Blower door testing

and a quieter, more comfortable living space. At the same time, these homes help protect the environment. The 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. So by using less energy, ENERGY STAR qualified homes reduce the amount of air pollution that is generated.

Nationwide, over 5,000 builders are building ENERGY STAR qualified homes, and to-date, Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky and Southeast Indiana have built 669 ENERGY STAR qualified homes and Dayton has built 426. To learn more or find ENERGY STAR builder partners in your area, visit [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) and [cincinnatienergystarhomes.com](http://cincinnatienergystarhomes.com).

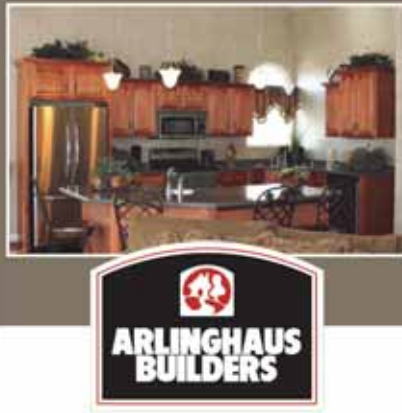
## Did You Know?

Each ENERGY STAR qualified home can keep 4,500 lbs of greenhouse gases out of our air each year. And because homes have such long life spans, this environmental benefit lasts for many, many years.

# Check out these Energy Star builders!



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**TAYLOR**  
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[www.taylorhomes.com](http://www.taylorhomes.com)  
513-688-0443

## Did You Know?

That a typical home can cause twice the greenhouse emissions of the typical car?

To learn more or find ENERGYSTAR builder partners in your area, visit:

[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

[www.cincinnatienergystarhomes.com](http://www.cincinnatienergystarhomes.com)

[www.newhomesofdayton.com](http://www.newhomesofdayton.com)

[www.hbanky.com](http://www.hbanky.com)

[www.cincibuilders.com](http://www.cincibuilders.com)

[www.clermontbuilders.org](http://www.clermontbuilders.org)

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## WE ARE BUILDING ON GREEN!

With millions of dollars being spent annually on home improvements and on new home construction, the 2009 Home and Remodeling Showcase is the place to be! The "Building on Green" theme was chosen to educate the consumer and introduce energy efficient products now available.

Stroll through impressive features including The Duke Energy® "Pathway to Green," beautiful displays, demonstrations, information and special events.

**DON'T MISS THE  DUK Energy® PATHWAY TO GREEN!**



For more information, visit  
[www.homeandremodelingshowcase.com](http://www.homeandremodelingshowcase.com)!

Produced by 

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