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WHAT'S YOUR E . Q . ?

By

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E.Q.? Energy Quotient! Are you energy-wise or energy-fuelish? Are you a 1,000-hitter or a 100-point energy wastrel? Here's a way to grade yourself. If you reach 1,000 points on this little energy audit, you've made just about every improvement you can and you lead an extremely energy-conscious existence. But most of us won't score anywhere near 1,000. We've gotten into some really bad habits over the years, and there's lots of room for improvement in most of our homes and in most of our lives. So take this test, grade yourself, your home and your lifestyle. And then follow my advice in the book and see how many points you can gain. You might think of it as a game; a game that can **pay you big-dollar prizes** as you approach the magic 1,000-point mark and win the **GOLD STAR**. And a game that's really rewarding to play.

YOUR ENERGY AUDIT

HEATING

Usual thermostat setting:

Winter Day	Possible Points	Your Score
74 F	0	_____
73	3	_____
72	6	_____
71	9	_____
70	12	_____
69	15	_____
68	18	_____
67	21	_____
66	24	_____
65	27	_____
64	30	_____
Winter Night		
65 F	15	_____
64	18	_____
63	21	_____
62	24	_____
61	27	_____
60	30	_____
You use an electric blanket to allow you to lower thermostat at night	6	_____
You wear two sweaters indoors so you can lower thermostat during the day	9	_____
You've installed an automatic flue damper on your heat system	30	_____



Your heating system has been serviced within the last six month	15	_____
You change or clean your heating system filters every month	3	_____
Your heating ducts have no leaks, or leaks have been taped	4	_____
All heating ducts or steam pipes are Insulated	4	_____
Your oil burner burns without smoke or signs of carbon on its surfaces	4	_____
You have a working draft adjuster in your oil burner	9	_____
Your gas burner burns with a clear, blue Flame	9	_____
Your gas burner has an electronic ignition system, not a pilot light	10	_____
Your oil burner is a new one with a retention head	30	_____
You use a humidifier during the winter	9	_____
Your radiators or air supply registers are not blocked by drapes or furniture and are clean	27	_____
You close off rooms not in use and turn off the heat in them	25	_____
You keep your fireplace damper shut, or you have glass fireplace doors	25	_____
On winter days, you open your drapes on the south side of the house and close them at night to take advantage of radiant heat from the sun	10	_____

INSULATION

Attic insulation:

None	-15	_____
2" or R-4	0	_____
4" or R-11	15	_____
6" or R-19	30	_____
8" or R-24	45	_____
10" or R-30	60	_____
12" or	75	_____
All your insulation has vapor barriers	15	_____
Your attic door is insulated	6	_____

Insulation in your exterior walls:

None	-6	_____
3" or R-11	25	_____
5" or R-15	33	_____

Insulation in crawlspaces

None	0	_____
6" or R-19	25	_____



6" or R-19 with vapor barrier	35	_____
Your attic and crawlspace are ventilated	15	_____
No basement crawlspace	30	_____
All outlets and switch plates are insulated	6	_____
Your foundation wall is insulated	30	_____
Vapor barrier on foundation wall	9	_____
You have storm windows	25	_____
You have storm doors or a vestibule	15	_____

WINDOWS AND DOORS

Your windows are not drafty	30	_____
Your doors are not drafty	15	_____
Cracks at doors, windows and where wood and masonry meet are caulked	30	_____
All window glass has full putty	15	_____
Double-glazed windows	25	_____
Broken windows (deduct for each)	-9	_____

WATER HEATING AND USAGE

Water heater has an insulated jacket	15	_____
You've set your water heater temperature at:		
110 F	12	_____
120	9	_____
130	6	_____
140	3	_____
150 Hazardous Temperature!	0	_____
160 Hazardous Temperature!	-3	_____
170 Hazardous Temperature!	-6	_____
180 Hazardous Temperature!	-9	_____
You drain sediment from water heater every month	5	_____
You've installed solar water heater	44	_____

AIR CONDITIONING AND VENTILATION

Your air-conditioning thermostat is set at:		
74 F	0	_____
75	3	_____
76	6	_____
77	9	_____
78	15	_____
79	15	_____
80	18	_____
No air conditioning	20	_____
You use natural ventilation and wear lightweight clothes in summer	5	_____
You close drapes on hot, sunny days	5	_____



You close windows and doors on hottest days	5	_____
Your air conditioners all have 8 or higher EER-(Energy Efficiency Ratios) Central System	9	_____
Window units-per unit	1.5	_____
Your air-conditioning units are shaded or on north side of house		
Central unit	5	_____
Window units-per unit	1	_____
You have an attic ventilation fan	15	_____

LIGHTING

You've installed fluorescent lights in kitchen	15	_____
All closet lights on auto-switch or timer switches	8	_____
You replace multiple low-watt bulbs with single high-watt bulbs for same light value but lower total wattage	9	_____
You habitually turn off lights when leaving a room	15	_____
You have energy-saving (solid state) dimmer switches (per switch)	5	_____

TELEVISION

Instant-on tv sets (deduct per set)	-5	_____
You turn off tv and hi-fi when not in use	15	_____
You fall asleep with tv on	-30	_____

THE KITCHEN

Your refrigerator is in a cool spot	5	_____
The EER of your refrigerator is above	9	_____
You close the refrigerator door quickly, rather than dawdle	5	_____
You have a manual-defrost refrigerator	10	_____
You defrost it regularly	5	_____
You clean the back of the refrigerator	5	_____
The refrigerator door gasket fits tightly	9	_____
You air-dry dishes rather than use your dishwasher drying cycle	6	_____
You have a flow restrictor in your kitchen faucet	6	_____
Your gas range has an electronic ignition system, rather than a pilot light	29	_____
All the gas burners have a clean, blue flame	15	_____



THE LAUNDRY

You wash with cold water	9	_____
You use a clothesline, rather than your dryer	9	_____
You turn off the iron when you're not using it	9	_____
You forget to turn off tile iron. Fire Hazard!	-18	_____

THE BATHROOM

You shower rather than bathe	15	_____
You have a flow restrictor in your shower	6	_____
You fix leaky faucets promptly	15	_____

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

Trees and shrubs are placed to allow sun in winter, block wind in cold weather, but shade house in summer	40	_____
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BONUSES

Installing a clock thermostat with day and night settings	15	_____
Installing a clock thermostat with double setback capability	20	_____
Installing a heat-producing greenhouse on the south side of the house	44	_____
Installing an energy monitor	45	_____
Installing a wood-burning stove (if wood is inexpensive in your area)	55	_____
Installing a windmill, solar heating and/or cooling, or any other renewable energy source	150	_____

**Possible
total**
(approx. 1350 maximum*)

**Your
total**



HOW WELL DID YOU SCORE?

If your score was	Here's how much you can save on your energy costs	
0-99 . . . . .	.50 to 75 percent	VERY POOR
100-199 . . . . .	.45 to 70 percent	POOR
200-299 . . . . .	.40 to 65 percent	FAIRLY POOR
300-399 . . . . .	.35 to 60 percent	FAIR
400-499 . . . . .	.30 to 55 percent	FAIRLY GOOD
500-599 . . . . .	.25 to 50 percent	COPPER STAR
600-699 . . . . .	.20 to 45 percent	NICKEL STAR
700-799 . . . . .	.15 to 40 percent	BRONZE STAR
800-899 . . . . .	.10 to 35 percent	SILVER STAR
900-999 . . . . .	.5 to 30 percent	PLATINUM STAR
1000 or more	You've won the GOLD STAR!	
	You've gone about as far as you can go.	

But the chances are you haven't gotten to 1,000 points yet, so let's begin with the big energy-eater !!!

* Possible total will vary from house to house, since points are given for gas furnaces which oil-heated houses won't qualify for and vice versa.

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