



How to Maximize Your Energy Savings

The best way to maximize energy savings is to evaluate your building for efficiency opportunities. This evaluation allows you to **first reduce** your energy use through efficiency improvements and **then produce** renewable energy with solar hot water/electric systems sized to the new energy demand for a more cost-effective project.

There are several resources to help home owners and commercial property owners assess energy savings opportunities.

Home Owners

- **Energy Audit:**

- The Sonoma County Energy Independence Program website has a free, easy to use [Action Plan Tool](#) that will provide recommendations and anticipated savings based on the property characteristics.
- PG&E provides a free online tool called the SmartEnergy Analyzer™ that collects home energy use data and provides efficiency recommendations and energy savings estimates. To take the SmartEnergy Analyzer™ audit, visit <http://www.pge.com/myhome/saveenergymoney/analyzer/en/>. If your property is not serviced by PG&E, contact your local utility provider.

- **Energy Analysis:**

- The California Home Energy Rating System, or HERS program, provides State-certified HERS “whole-house” raters who perform an onsite assessment of your home’s energy features, collect building data, perform diagnostic tests for building and duct system air leaks, and produce a custom report with a prioritized list of energy upgrades, estimates of energy savings, and a HERS score that identifies your home’s improved efficiency performance. The HERS rater can also help you plan the upgrade sequence to maximize your energy savings and verify the upgrades, including retesting to confirm reductions in building and duct system air leaks. The HERS rating fee can be



financed as part of your SCEIP assessment.

- [Energy Upgrade California](#) is a utility-funded program. The program is designed to help you understand and prioritize the energy and comfort improvements possible in your home. Energy Upgrade California contractors are Building Performance Institute-certified to ensure the improvements are installed properly and perform as expected. The energy analyses are performed in conjunction with retrofit work, so this is a great option if you already know what improvements you might like to make.
- **Residential energy analysis service providers can be located through:**
 - HERS “whole-house” raters can be located through the State-certified HERS organization: CalCERTS at www.calcerts.com, or
 - BPI-certified contractors can be located through the Building Performance Institute website at www.bpi.org.

Commercial Property Owners

- **Energy Analysis:**
 - Commercial property owners can receive free energy analysis assistance through PG&E or the City of Healdsburg electric utility, depending on the service territory. Commercial energy analysis services focus on appliances, equipment, heating/cooling systems, and lighting upgrades to reduce operating costs. PG&E also offers a wide variety of demand-response programs. To receive assistance choosing the right PG&E program for your business, call 707-577-1080. To receive assistance on Healdsburg electric utility programs, call 707-565-6470.
 - The [Sonoma County Energy Watch](http://www.sonomacountyenergywatch.org) program provides comprehensive energy efficiency services for small and medium businesses. SCEW provides free energy evaluations, direct installation of energy efficiency lighting, and refrigeration tune-ups. To learn more or schedule a free evaluation visit: www.sonomacountyenergywatch.org or call (707) 565-2160.
 - Comprehensive energy management and services consulting companies are also a commercial option. These companies may have the engineering expertise to provide energy audits, installation assistance and technical support services in commercial applications.