

## **Cut back utility costs with a Home Energy Audit**

Sometimes homeowners need an extra incentive to do renovations and retrofits on their homes. The Ontario government is offering a grant program for homeowners because retrofits help reduce the load upon municipal utilities and infrastructure. Home energy audits give homeowners incentives to do renovations because they show how homeowners will save money on their utility bills and help them know what retrofits and renovations are most useful to them.

A home energy audit is a two step process. The initial inspection costs \$350, and a return visit, costing \$150 for a total of \$500, is to be done within 18 months to check out what retrofits have been completed and confirm the grant request. The Ontario government offers a \$150 rebate toward the audit and no taxes are involved. Note that there are surcharges for homes larger than 2,999 square feet.

Government grants for retrofits make the cost of the energy audit worth doing. For example, you could receive \$300 for a furnace installation, \$400 for insulating a crawl space or \$300 for replacing a wood furnace, \$200 for a new air conditioner or \$500 for a solar hot water system. If you have the money to replace two or more items in your home you can combine grants, making the audit a good investment; not to mention the payback from saving energy and utility costs. As the work does not have to be done for a year and a half from the time of the initial audit this gives the homeowner some flexibility. More about grants can be found at <http://eceeecoenergy.pbwiki.com/Grant+schedule>.

**Call toll free for a home Energy Audit 1-866-865-7337 or E-mail:  
[info@thereep.ca](mailto:info@thereep.ca).**