

Home Energy Score California

Residential buildings account for a large share of California’s energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, yet buyers, renters, and homeowners rarely have clear, standardized information about a home’s energy performance.

Home Energy Score California makes energy performance visible and easy to understand. The program provides a simple 1–10 score—similar to a miles-per-gallon rating for cars—paired with practical recommendations to improve comfort, cut energy waste, and reduce emissions.

How the Program Works

Based on the U.S. Department of Energy’s Home Energy Score, a certified assessor completes a short walk-through, collecting data on insulation, air sealing, windows, ductwork, and heating, cooling, and water heating systems.

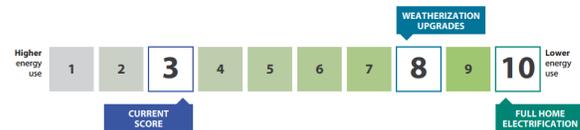
Each home receives a report with:

- **The Home Energy Score from 1 to 10**
- **Estimated energy costs and carbon footprint**
- **Prioritized upgrade recommendations**, from weatherization to electrification options like heat pumps and induction cooking

Homeowners can receive a \$250 rebate to help cover the cost of an assessment, and reports can be customized to reflect local incentives and policy requirements.



Home Energy Score



A sample Home Energy Score report showing how a home rated 3 out of 10 could improve to an 8 with weatherization upgrades and reach a perfect 10 with full electrification, reducing estimated yearly energy costs from \$2,475 to \$1,556.

From Local Leadership to Statewide Scale

Home Energy Score’s roots in California begin in Alameda County. StopWaste became an official Home Energy Score Partner in 2015, when the City of Berkeley began requiring scores under its Building Emissions Savings Ordinance, and has promoted Home Energy Scores as a public awareness tool. Building on this early success, the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)—a collaboration of nine Bay Area counties—launched the Green Labeling program, led by StopWaste, in 2018 to expand Home Energy Scores and educate real estate professionals.

Since then, more than 30,000 Home Energy Scores have been completed across the Bay Area and more than \$5 million in rebates have helped homeowners participate. The program earned a U.S. Department of Energy innovation award for regionally scaling Home Energy Score and for leadership in advancing electrification.

In January 2026, the Home Energy Score program officially expanded statewide. StopWaste serves as the statewide program lead, overseeing program design, assessor training and quality assurance, rebate administration, and policy support for local jurisdictions—bringing nearly a decade of Bay Area experience to scale a proven local model across California.

Why It Matters

- **For residents**, the score explains high bills and comfort problems and points to the upgrades that make the biggest difference—supporting lower costs, healthier homes, and higher resale value.
- **For the environment**, the program reduces energy waste, accelerates electrification, and cuts climate pollution from buildings.
- **For local governments**, Home Energy Score supports Climate Action Plans and building decarbonization strategies and provides housing stock data to better target programs and investments. Jurisdictions can also pair the program with policies such as time-of-listing or existing building disclosure.

Learn more at HomeScoreCA.org