



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I have a home energy assessment?

At no cost to you, an Energy Specialist will evaluate your entire home, from attic to basement, and will identify where energy improvements can be made. The assessment will most likely result in reducing the amount of energy you use, which can save you money. Rebates, incentives, no-cost equipment, tax credits and 0% financing to improve your home's efficiency may be available. You will learn how to reduce energy costs, improve your home's performance and comfort and the bonus is that this will reduce the emissions produced by your energy use.

How long will the energy assessment take?

The length will vary by home. Be prepared to spend about 2 hours with the Energy Specialist.

What is the fee for the home energy assessment?

There is no cost to you for the home energy assessment or obligation to implement recommendations.

No one is at my home during the workweek; can I have an energy assessment on the weekend?

Yes! The Energy Specialists are offering Saturday appointments as well as some evenings.

Who performs the home energy assessment?

There are two different providers that perform energy assessments, depending on how your home is heated. If you are a National Grid gas heat customer, Conservation Services Group will perform the energy assessment. If you are an oil or electric heat customer, the energy assessment will be performed by Energy New England on behalf of the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant. When you call to arrange for the assessment, Wellesley Municipal Light Plant's customer service representative will direct you to the proper provider.

Do I need to prepare for the assessment?

Yes. It is important for you to clear access to your basement and attic as the Energy Specialist will need to get to your heating, air conditioning and hot water systems. You also want to have your most recent heating and electric bills on hand. Plan for a decision-maker to be home during the assessment to hear the recommendations if you want to move forward immediately. Finally, if you have pets, kindly secure them.

What kind of recommendations will the Energy Specialist make?

The most common recommendations are to improve the insulation and air sealing in your home, but the Energy Specialist will look at your whole house to find the best ways to improve energy efficiency. The whole house approach looks at its thermal layering, mechanical systems, and consumer products. The recommendations will include an estimate of the “payback period”... how quickly it is estimated that on-going savings will exceed that cost.

How much energy will I likely save if I follow their recommendations?

The assessment will help you to determine how much energy you will save by implementing the recommended improvements. On average, the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant has seen an 8% decrease in electric consumption. For National Grid gas heat customer, completing weatherization improvements can save 15% or more on your heating and cooling costs. Your energy savings will depend on the existing efficiency of your home and the improvements that you complete.

After I have the assessment, which contractors are authorized to perform the weatherization improvements? How do I know who to hire?

The Energy Specialist will provide you with a list of certified contractors who perform the recommended energy improvements on behalf of National Grid and Wellesley Municipal Light Plant customers. The program offers standardized pricing for program-approved weatherization improvements. For your convenience, soliciting several quotes is not required. Of course you can engage any contractor you like (if your preferred contractor is not on the list), but then you may not be eligible for the pricing, incentives and rebates offered.

Why is the Municipal Light Plant offering this program?

At the 2010 Town Meeting, the Town of Wellesley voted on an initiative to reduce greenhouse gases by 10% by the end of 2013. The Town has been taking numerous steps to reach the goal, such as increasing the use of renewable energy sources. Now, Wellesley is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing its energy consumption. Knowing where energy is being used is key to identifying ways to use less. Every residence can make a difference.