Home energy score program what you need to know as a home buyer or seller



# If your real estate goals include buying or selling a home in Bend this summer -- or anytime after, this is for you:

Starting July 1, 2023 the City of Bend is implementing a new Home Energy Score Program. A Home Energy Score is a rating that assesses a home's energy efficiency. Like a miles-per-gallon rating for a vehicle, a home energy score provides information about how efficiently the home uses energy, which can inform a buyer's purchase decision. The Home Energy Score Program Will require that homes listed for sale in Bend obtain a Home Energy Score prior to listing. The listing agent must then share the scorecard with prospective buyers looking at the home. The home energy score tool was created by the U.S. Department of Energy And is used across the country.





# What is the upfront cost for a homeowner?

In other Oregon markets, the cost ranges from \$150-\$300. City of Bend staff will monitor the cost of scores annually or more frequently to determine whether the cost is becoming a significant burden. The transaction for the assessment is between the homeowner and the assessor and the City does not collect any funds and is not involved in the transaction. Homeowners who qualify for the low-income assistance program may have the cost of the assessment covered by the City.

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### This is not an audit

This new program requires an assessment of the home, it is NOT an audit. The Home Energy Report will provide areas of optional improvement to increase your home's energy efficiency but no action is required

## Limited Energy Assessors

There are currently four licensed assessors who can complete these reports - but the Bend market needs roughly 10 to meet demand. That means that if you have plans to list your home this summer or anytime after, you should schedule a home energy score assessment ASAP to ensure you are in compliance with the new regulations.

### Our recommendation



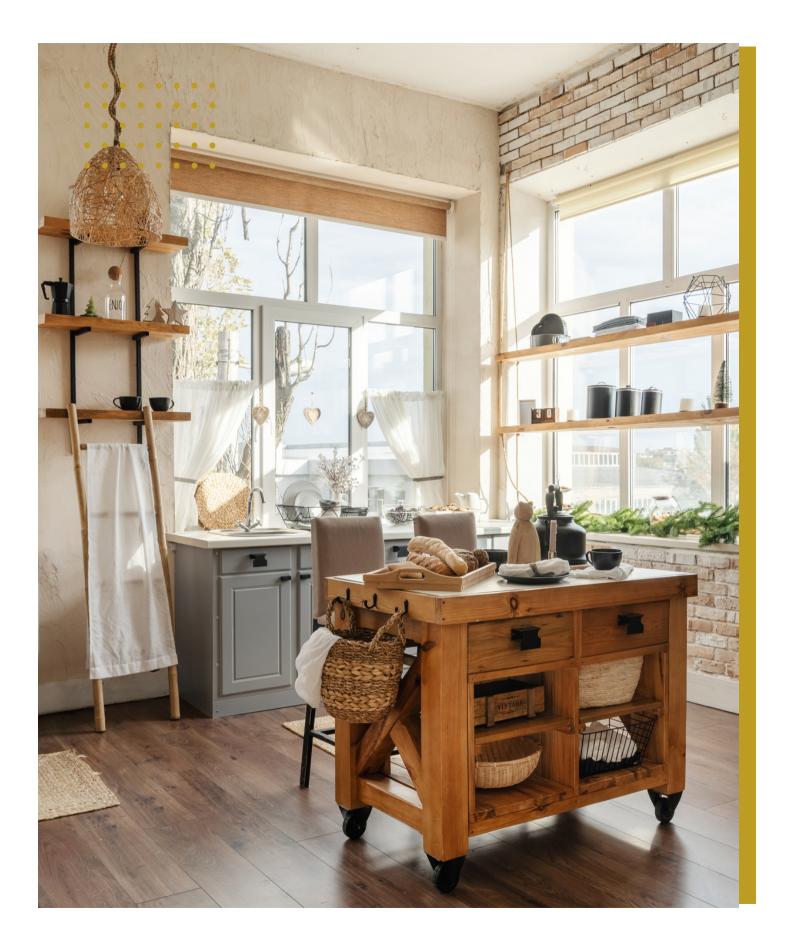
In this market, it could benefit you greatly as a seller to have a home energy assessment done and take a proactive approach to show potential buyers that you have done some of the recommended upgrades to improve your home's efficiency. When buyers compare homes, this could make yours stand out far beyond the rest!



# what does this mean for sellers?



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# What does this mean for buyers?

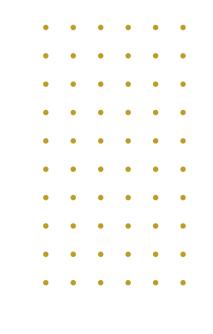
Home Energy Score reports provide transparency to homebuyers about the efficiency of a home and how much its energy costs will be, compared to other homes on the market. It allows buyers to consider the energy cost of a home when deciding which home to purchase, and provides information about the physical assets of the potential home that they may not otherwise see, like insulation and heating and cooling systems. Starting July 1 2023, buyers will be able to compare home energy scores side by side when determining which home is right for you.

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# A few more details

This is only required for homes within the City of Bend. This does not apply to any homes outside the urban growth boundary (UGB). But as the UGB expands, those homes included will require energy assessment before hitting the market.

This requirement does not apply to detached accessory dwelling units (ADU's), manufactured dwellings, stacked condominiums or dwelling units where the unit does not extend from foundation to roof, or single dwelling units used solely for commercial purposes.



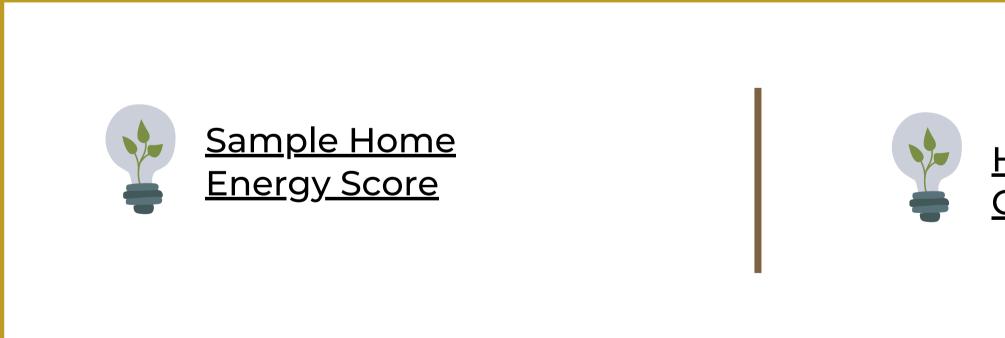


## **Enforcement Approach**

If the City finds a home out of compliance, the seller will receive a notice of non-compliance and have a 15-day grace period to come into compliance. If a homeowner does not come into compliance within the grace period, the violation will be reported to code enforcement and treated as a code violation, and subject to penalties and fees as determined by the code violation process

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#### More information on <u>the Home Energy</u> Score Program

#### Home Energy Score <u>Code</u>

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Have any questions about this new program? We are here to help, always.

We are here to help you reach all of your real estate goals! We are driven by our commitment to authenticity and a desire to build meaningful and lasting relationships with our clients. We look forward to serving you for many years to come. Let's work together!





Jenna + Andie

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