

Keeping Austin Green

The Energy Efficiency Ordinance



- ▼ February 2007: Mayor Will Wynn launched a climate protection plan.
- ▼ November 2008: City council voted to have the ordinance go into place.
- ▼ June 2009: Ordinance went into effect.

For full information on the audit please visit www.austinenergy.com and view the menu item that is titled "Energy Conservation Audit & Disclosure Ordinance."

A FEW QUICK FACTS:

What is required under the new ordinance?

Homeowners that are selling their homes in Austin must obtain an energy audit. The findings of this audit must be disclosed as a part of the seller's disclosure.

Who is affected?

Those homeowners that have properties that are at least 10 years old, within the Austin city limits, and are serviced by Austin Energy.

Who is able to conduct an audit?

These audits must be conducted by professionals that have been certified by either the Building Performance Institute or the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET). Additionally, these professionals must be registered as approved contractors. Please visit www.austinenergy.com/go/ecad for a list of registered professionals.

When does the audit need to be completed?

Due to the fact that the audit is required as a part of the seller's disclosure, it must be completed before closing. It is recommended that homeowners have an audit conducted before the time comes to sell as this may help to increase energy efficiency and cut back on the cost of utility bills.

Also, this may help to identify areas of improvement and could help to eliminate any last minute problems should the time come to sell one's home.

How long is the audit good for?

Currently, the ordinance rules that each energy audit will be good for 10 years.

Are there any exemptions?

Yes, there are several exemptions to the ordinance:

- ▼ Properties less than 10 years old
- ▼ Any properties that are currently in foreclosure or pre-foreclosure, subject to eminent domain, transactions between family members or under court order, in probate proceedings, under decree of legal separation or dissolution of marriage.
- ▼ Manufactured homes designed for use without a permanent foundation
- ▼ Properties owned by participants in designated Austin Energy Electric Utility programs, or buyers who agree in writing to participate in these programs within six months

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