

## Taking Charge: CCI's Home Energy Showcase

Conservation Consultants, Inc. invites *you* to be part of its *first ever* Home Energy Showcase! PRIZES FOR SAVING ENERGY AT HOME!

Pittsburgh's residential sector accounts for 25% of its total greenhouse gas emissions. As someone who understands how critical it is for all of us to take action on climate, CCI calls upon you to lead by example, and tackle your home's carbon footprint. Help show others that taking some steps towards energy reduction is worthwhile! CCI's Home Energy Showcase is an example-setting opportunity in the name of climate progress!

- **What is it?**
  - CCI's Home Energy Showcase is a competition among Pittsburgh-area homeowners based on personal carbon footprint reductions in relation to the home.
- **When is it?**
  - The contest launched in August, with sign-up at <https://getenergysmarter.org/showcase> until Oct 30, and it is expected to run for 8 months. Each participant's own journey will begin with a full home energy audit and come to a close once selected home performance upgrades have been completed.
- **Who is involved?**
  - Participation is open to all homeowners and residential property owners with up to 4 rental units in Allegheny County whose homes were built before 1989 and are in need of energy efficiency upgrades.
- **How do we involve others?**
  - This is one of the most important aspects of the Home Energy Showcase – inspiring change. By allowing CCI access to “telling your story” as you face successes and come across barriers in making home improvements, those following along will be able to see that they have the ability to make changes as well. CCI will also recognize and award those who best help spread the word and motivate others to join.

**As a Showcase participant, you will have the opportunity to be crowned one of 3 energy saving titles:**

- 1 “ENERGY CHAMPION” recognitions, and prizes of \$500 and \$250, will be given to the households with the overall lowest and second-lowest energy use, adjusted for family size.
- 2 “UNSTOPPABLE UPGRADER” recognitions, and prizes of \$500 and \$250, are for the households which achieve the best (biggest) and second-best improvement relative to their baseline energy use.
- 3 “THRIFTY REDUCER” recognitions with prizes of \$500 and \$250 will be awarded for the highest and second-highest energy usage reduction per dollars spent on upgrades.



## More Info

From a “nuts and bolts” standpoint, the Showcase will begin with CCI’s Sound Home Plan (SHP) where you will receive an audit and evaluation at a discounted rate of \$375 for standard home. CCI team will walk you through the Sound Home Plan report recommendations for your home and connect you with resources. From there, it is up to YOU to evaluate and select which upgrades make the most sense for your energy saving goals and your budget. What will distinguish this project from a regular CCI audit is the open sharing from each participant about the realistic barriers they face (time, inertia, lifestyle disruption, costs and perceived ROI), as well as small actions and behavioral changes that will supplement more robust home improvements and add to the competitive aspect of this Showcase. Through this storytelling, CCI plans to mobilize the region and address our residential carbon footprint!

Participants need to agree to let CCI publicly share information from the energy audits and to modestly contribute to social media content for CCI to post throughout the duration of the Showcase. As participants plan and make behavioral changes and install energy efficiency measures, CCI will assist in tracking and analyzing reductions. CCI will use software modeling to determine the expected energy use reductions in this Showcase with SnuggPro software from the home performance vendor Snugg Home, LLC. CCI will also calculate the associated carbon footprint for each participant’s house and establish participant’s baseline home performance from their current energy use data. Participants commit to making at least one recommended measure, either by DIY or by using contractors.

Following the energy audit, CCI will track the impacts of actions taken by participants to reduce their home energy usage:

- 1 DIY actions taken for home improvement, including measures like adjusting a programmable thermostat, turning off a second fridge, upgrading to LED lights, air sealing, etc.
- 2 Working with contractors who performs an upgrade based on SHP recommendations. Typical improvements involve air sealing of leaks in the home, adding insulation in the attic and/or walls, weatherizing or replacing doors, storm windows, replacing inefficient HVAC equipment, etc. If you perform this work as DIY, it also counts!
- 3 Undertaking of additional conservation practices/behavioral changes that impact energy use – e.g., cutting phantom loads, reducing hot water use, air drying laundry. We ask participants to document/photograph and report performing such practices back to CCI.
- 4 Post-improvement reporting back to CCI. Upon completion of upgrades and changes, participants are asked to provide labor and/or material receipts and other documentation, e.g., photographs of what they accomplished. Some homes will receive free post-job inspection from CCI, and new air leakage measurement will be determined, if applicable, etc. Each participant will receive an updated version of the SHP report for their home. This report as well as the above conservation practices will be used to determine winners in this Showcase.

THIS SUMMARY IS AN OVERVIEW ONLY. THE CONTEST IS SUBJECT TO COMPLETE OFFICIAL RULES. THE OFFICIAL RULES, ALONG WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS, INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS MAY BE OBTAINED AT <https://getenergysmarter.org/showcase>.

**Now is the time to show the Pittsburgh region that the residential piece of the climate mitigation puzzle is ATTAINABLE and IMPACTFUL! As a sustainability-minded resident, we are calling upon YOU to help us mobilize communities and create real and substantial environmental change! Sign up now to TAKE CHARGE and be a part of CCI’s Home Energy Showcase!**

