



# Introduction to an Energy Audit

Why It's a Useful First Step

solaripedia



# What's the Motivation?

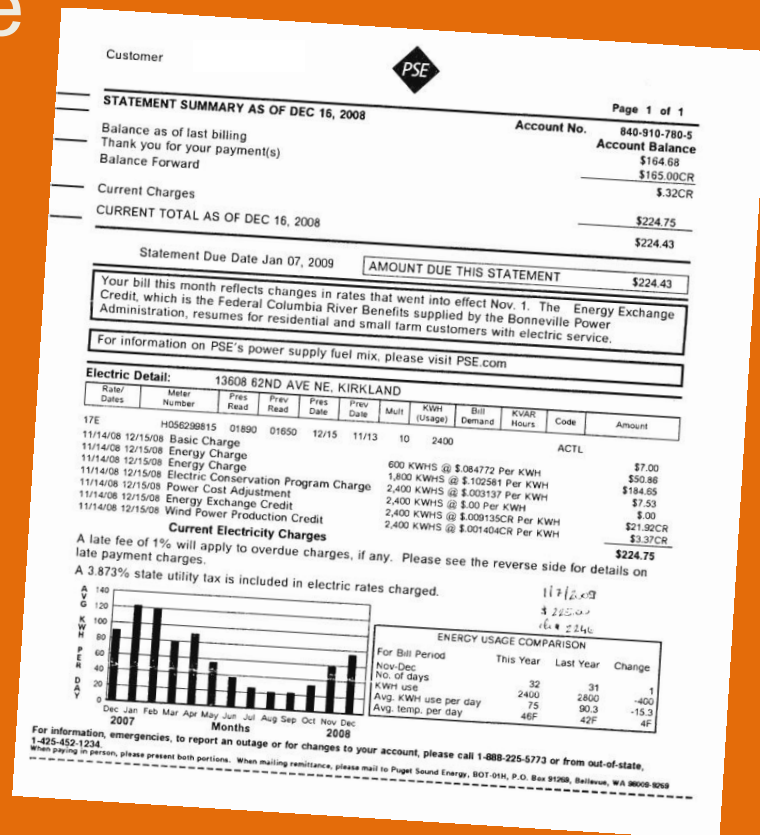
- Utility savings?
- Improve comfort?
- Save the earth?
- Cool factor?
- Techno geek?



ToonPool

# Issues to Address

- Current electric bills/usage
- Energy audit to find heat losses
- Payback on investment
- Comfort provided?
- How long will you live in the home?

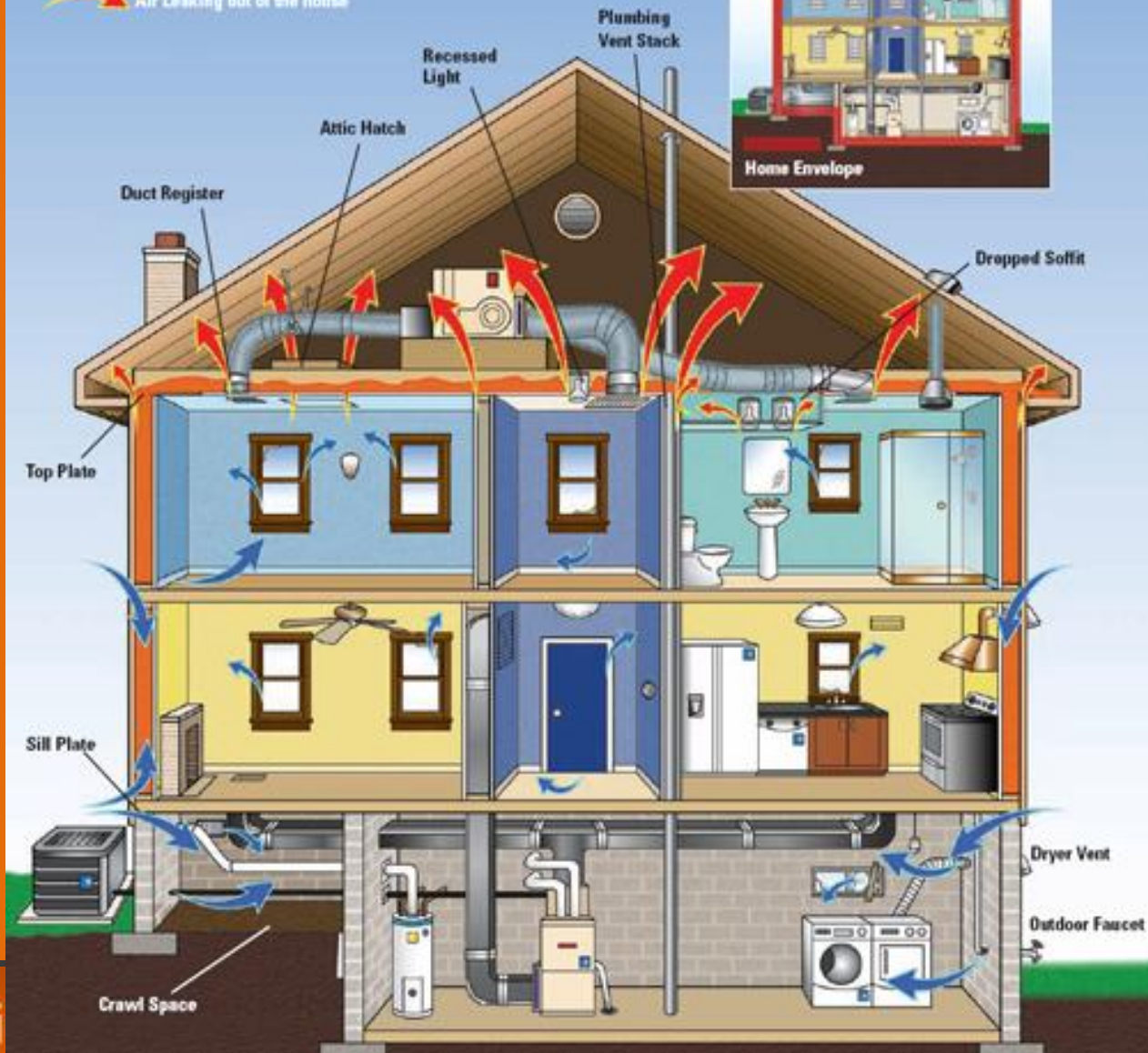


# Energy Saving Basics

- Improve the envelope – first line of defense
  - Insulation, windows, air/vapor sealing, siding
- Reduce energy consumption inside
  - Appliances, furnace, water heater, lighting

## COMMON AIR LEAKS

- ➡ Air Leaking into the house  
➡ Air Leaking out of the house



# Blower Door Test



- Helps find air leaks at windows, doors, can lights, floors, vents, etc.

# Pressure Pan Duct Test

- Suction to test ducts



# Infrared Scan



- Shows major air leaks throughout house, especially where there's poor insulation

# Weatherization Basics

- #1 Seal cracks around windows, doors – blower test before and after
- Upgrade insulation in walls, attic, floors/crawl space
- Insulate (or replace) water heater tank, pipes
- Test duct performance and seal with mastic
- Add shading to keep out summer sun
- Replace old windows with openable Energy Star
- Replace furnace if it's 15+ years

# Landscaping

- Deciduous trees for shade in summer, let sun through in winter
- Proper orientation of house on site
- Keep sun off glazing first
- Use solar-powered lighting
- Collect rainwater and gravity-feed to landscape

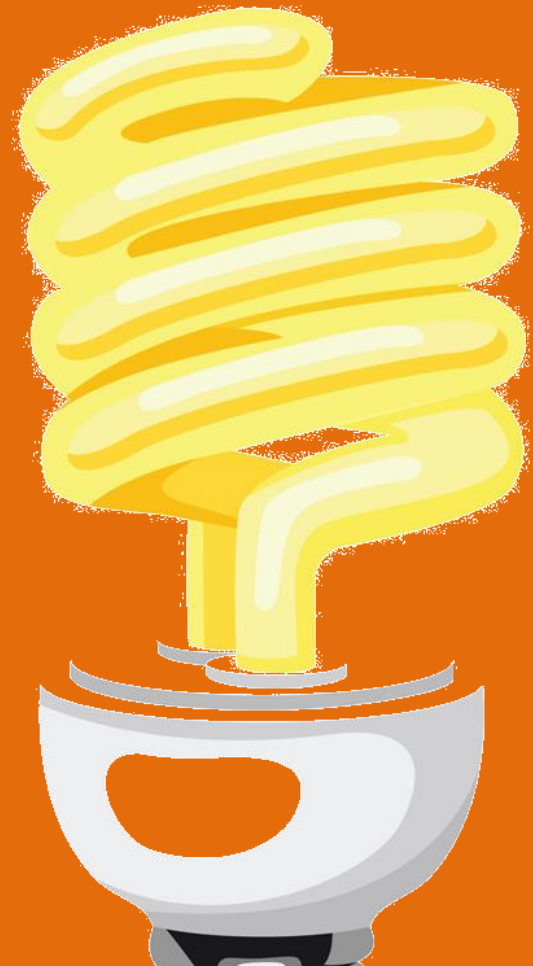


# Phase the Work

- ➡ Energy audit
- ➡ Seal ducts and clean ducts, furnace
- ➡ Improve insulation in easy spaces
- ➡ Replace windows
- ➡ Replace furnace/water heater
- ➡ ...Renewable energy such as PV

# Immediate Payback, Low Cost

- Insulate water heater – 10% savings
- Seal ducts – 30% savings
- Replace dishwasher – 25% energy (+800 gpy water savings)
- Replace lights with CFL or reduce bulb wattage – 66% energy savings – *lighting is ~10% of electric bills*
- Programmable thermostat – pays for itself 1<sup>st</sup> yr
- Lower water heater to 120 degrees – 10% savings over 140 degrees



# Moderate Effort & Cost

- Replace windows – 15% energy savings
- Upgrade insulation – 20-50% energy savings
- Replace water heater – 32% ROI (\$4/mo)
- Replace furnace
- Seal air leaks – 25% reduction
- Solar attic fan and garden path lights
- Replace clothes washer – 50% less energy



# Advanced Reach & Cost

- Radiant floor heat
- Overhangs added on south, west
- Solar water heater
- Geothermal heat
- Upgraded roof or vegetated roof
- Photovoltaics or wind generator
- Passive – thermal mass floors
- Vestibule to temper



# Renewable Energy Retrofits

- Solar study – Trees? Buildings?
- Wind study - >10-15 mph average? Height?
- Geothermal drilling space?
- Biomass source?



# Renewable & Energy Incentives

- DSIRE Website – Washington State  
<http://www.dsireusa.org/library/includes/map2.cfm?CurrentPageID=1&State=WA&RE=1&EE=1>
- Federal tax credits for energy efficiency  
[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_tax\\_credits](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits)

# Online Resources

[www.solaripedia.com](http://www.solaripedia.com)