



# Energy Efficiency Simplified

May 2008



 Molly Ellis

Associate Broker  
ABR, ASR, CRS, GRI, e-PRO  
Business: 360-692-6102  
Seattle: 206-282-5340  
Cell: 360-620-2690  
mol-

Everybody's talking about energy efficiency. From construction of large apartment complexes to single-family homes, the use of "green" materials and power sources has produced a major change in the way builders do their work.

The great news is that you no longer need to be an "ecology warrior" to take advantage of what an energy efficient home has to offer. Not only do you save money with lower electric and fuel bills, but your home ends up having more value. Your pocketbook will thank you.

When it comes to ensuring your home is energy efficient, there are a few simple things you can do.

Start with your appliances. How much energy do your washer and dryer use? How about your air conditioner? Your lighting?

The best way to know is to check your EnergyStar rating. As you may know, EnergyStar is a Federally-backed program that assigns a number to an appliance, telling you exactly how energy efficient that appliance is. (For more information, go online to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).)

But beyond appliances, you may want to check on some other energy leaks you may have in your home, such as:

*A damp basement.* This could be from moisture migrating down through your foundation. Left unchecked, it can be the cause of dangerous mold.

*Cold floors.* This is a sure sign of inefficient insulation.

*Drafty rooms.* You may have a tiny hole leaking warmth somewhere. Check for mice or termites.

*Window moisture.* Are your windows old and rotting? It may be time to replace them.

While you can't plug every leak in an older home, you can focus on the basics.

The final step you can take is buying energy efficient lighting. A vast array of new choices is available, including light bulbs that use much less energy than ever before—while retaining that warm look of older lighting.

Green is the new gold. Energy efficiency is here to stay and it's for everybody.

For more details on the specifics of energy-efficient building materials, appliances, and products, give me a call at (360) 620-2690 or drop me an e-mail at [mollyells@windermere.com](mailto:mollyells@windermere.com).

  
Windermere Real Estate/West Sound, Inc.

*If you are already working with an agent, this is not meant as a solicitation for that business.*

 Specializing in the Difficult  
Excelling in the Impossible<sup>®</sup>



ERROR: undefined  
OFFENDING COMMAND:

STACK: