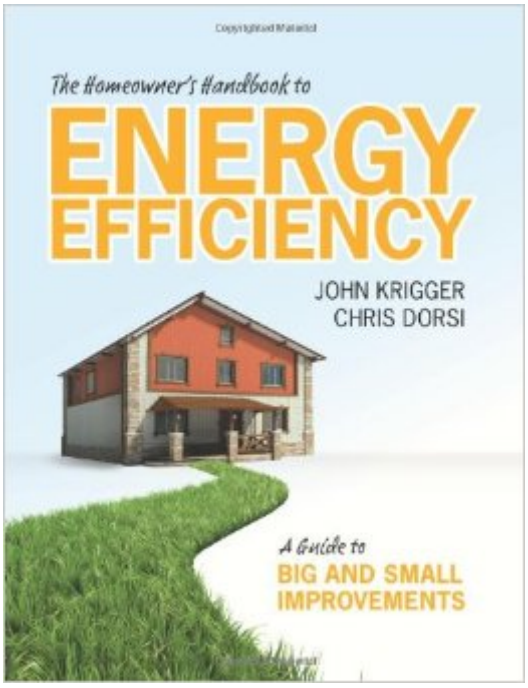
The Homeowner's Handbook To Energy Efficiency: A Guide To Big And Small Improvements



Synopsis

In The Homeowner’s Guide to Energy Efficiency, John Krigger helps homeowners set realistic personal goals for reducing their energy consumption. His methods for making homes more energy efficient will also improve comfort, safety, durability, and resale value. He guides readers through the process of assessing current energy usage and predicting the benefits and estimating the costs of remodeling options. With projects ranging from simple fixes to large-scale renovations, this book offers solutions for the energy-conscious homeowner, regardless of budget, technical ability, or time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With the way the economy is these days, saving money takes new importance. One of the ways to do that is by making smart choices about energy efficient appliances and making your home more energy efficient. This book, designed for homeowners aims to just that and argues that any home can be improved from an energy standpoint.After a two page introduction that touts the benefits of making your home more energy efficient, the book opens with the idea that you need to develop an energy use plan for your home. Chapter One discusses the differences between energy consumption and carbon emissions, the energy costs in the building materials, and how both big and small changes/fixes are important. Everything adds up and adding it all up is the key to determining how much energy you are using whether it is electrical, gas, propane or oil. Basic math is illustrated along with a couple of case studies before ten obvious choices are briefly discussed

such as installing programmable thermostats, changing appliances, adding insulation, upgrading windows and doors ,etc.Chapter Two is all about "Lighting and Appliances" and delves into the topic by explaining what the "Energy Star" program really means, different types of lighting, what you can do with appliances up to and including replacing them. Along with the text, there are plenty of small sidebar tips and illustrations."Water Heating" is the theme of Chapter Three which explains different basic terms as well as how to adjust your habits as well as your water heater. Along with what to look for if you want to replace your water heater, how to insulate the tank and/or water lines is covered along with replacing shower heads and how to go about creating a solar water heating system."Heating and Cooling First Steps" is the title of Chapter Four. The basics of airflow, humidity, temperature, comfort zones, etc is covered along with the uses of programmable thermostats, ceiling fans, natural ventilation and whole house fans. Also mentioned are solar screens, reflective films, Venetian blinds and how to improve your roof reflectivity among other topics. Illustrations in black and white are included in this chapter as well as throughout the book along with various relevant tables.Chapter Five, "Landscaping" moves the focus to what you can do with plants and trees. Beyond knowing what your general climate is you need to know your own home’s personal microclimate. Which side gets afternoon sun, which side gets that bone breaking north wind in winter, etc. Once you know that, they suggest various ways to create shade, wind breaks, etc. Along with explaining the basic tree forms (columnar, pyramidal, spreading, among others) as well as how to plant and mulch the book guides readers as to the types of plants and trees might fit best in your particular microclimate. The book does not make specific tree recommendations at all and instead gives you the tools to consider what type of tree you need or want before heading down to your local nursery or landscape center to talk specifics."Finding and Sealing Air Leaks" is the theme of Chapter Six. Finding the leaks and determining how had they are begins the chapter before an explanation of various materials available to seal the leaks. Black and white pictures and illustrations help with the basic as does the text which also looks at various issues in walls, attics, and ductwork.Chapter Seven delves into "Insulation" using the same format of defining the topic, determining what is needed. Along with tables and helpful information, the black and white illustrations showing the right and wrong way to install insulation and black and white photographs showing different types of insulation in various types of attics."Windows and Doors" and what to do about them is the topic of Chapter Eight. They may be the biggest heat and cooling loss from your home as the authors note. After explaining types of windows and window ratings, types of window treatments and if necessary, window replacement they follow the same format in their discussion of doors."Cooling Systems" is the theme of Chapter Nine. After cheerfully noting that "air-conditioning

Systems are expensive and environmentally destructive to operate" they suggest various ways to improve the efficiency of your current ac system such as having the system professionally serviced, cleaning the coils, making sure your filters are changed and the system is charged correctly and appropriate for the home. Room ac units also discussed along with the installation and use of an evaporative cooler.Chapter Ten moves the focus to "Heating Systems" and looks at the same basic issues in the same format. Improving your duct work along with having your system professionally serviced as well as possible replacement systems are key components of this chapter."Photovoltaic Systems" such as solar cells, a solar array, etc is the theme of Chapter Eleven. Not every home site is suitable for a solar panel, array or system and this chapter walks you through how to determine if it is a good idea and then how to go about having something installed.Chapter Twelve has the title of "Moisture Management and Ventilation." Basically, you don't want mold or mildew in your home and this chapter tells you all the horrible ways moisture (mold/mildew, etc) can wreck your home and how to avoid it, find it if you have it, and deal with it.Finally, if you are "Building a New Home" then Chapter Thirteen is for you. It discusses various construction and design methods you can use to make sure your new home is the best it can be from an energy use and emission stand point.A list of various resources, a list of suggested internet keyword topic searches relating to each chapter and a four page index bring this helpful and informative book to a close.While color pictures and illustrations would have been nice, this 180 page book published last year more than adequately address the topic. Filled with highly technical information simplified but never dumbed down for the reader, plenty of photographs and illustrations, this book provides a guidepost to helping the environment and saving the homeowner money in the long run. Everything in the book is doable by most people and the ideas presented are practical and worthwhile. This might not be the only book you would ever need on the subject, but it is a very good book.Kevin R. Tipple (copyright) 2009

I am an energy auditor and I spend much time educating people about energy efficiency, conservation, products, building science, and more. This book is a life and time saver! Since it became available, I've been able to point folks to it and have saved myself lots of time. The book is very easy to understand, very thorough, with good graphics. Everyone who owns a home should have this book. And, everyone who is wanting to reduce their energy use and carbon footprint, AND fix their home should have this book.

I work in the energy conservation field. I am frequently asked by people if there is a reference book that is not filled with technical jargon. Something the layman can understand. I think this book may

be it. I saw it on the web site during a search for energy related reference books. I haven't finished it yet but so far I find it is very informative using illustrations and photos along with explanations of energy saving measures. I recommend it to anyone that would like to make a difference by reducing their energy costs as well as their carbon footprint.

This is a great book. These guys inspire big and small home energy improvements and back it up with technical hows and whys in an accessible style. It reinforces action by telling you how to benchmark your energy use and measure improvement. Hands-on stuff for doers by guys who look like they've actually done it.

Very informative book! I have been following how to save energy since the 70's. Learn something new from each book I read. I am fixing up the basement and was wondering where to put a vapor barrier. This book tells where not to put a vapor barrier. I will refer back to this book often! This book covers everything about saving energy! I would recommend this book to anyone interested in energy savings!!!!

This book goes into every imaginable detail of heating, cooling, lighting, landscaping, as they affect energy efficiency. If you are designing and building a home, this would be/is an outstanding book and a good purchase. On the other hand, if you just want to seal up your house and insulate it, I think "Weatherproofing" by Fox Chapel would be a better choice. I bought both and reviewed both, and I would recommend both. But this is the comprehensive one. I like both spectrums of comprehensiveness and focus/detail.

This is a great book. I'm somebody that feels overwhelmed when people use the jargon in this case construction jargon in putting a book together for someone that is going in clueless. This book does not do that. It's easy to read and very understandable. It's a great start to improving your home's energy use. I feel after reading this book that if I walk into a handy man shop I could easily start a conversation about insulation and what kind I'm looking for or buy a good water heater, etc... I really feel like this book has empowered me with enough knowledge to make some good decisions about my home... It's a great starter book... If you are a beginner like me this is the book for you. This book is like basic math when most books go straight into calculus... I don't know about you but I need the basic math understanding before I can hit calculus.... The authors did a wonderful job!!!

Not every idea is a good fit for every house, but one by one I evaluated every item in this book and implemented all the ones I liked. I just finished an energy audit with our power supply company, and I’m pleased to find our power consumption is about 30% below similar households.

The Homeowner’s Handbook to Energy Efficiency: A Guide to Big and Small Improvements The Homeowner’s Guide to Renewable Energy: Achieving Energy Independence Through Solar, Wind, Biomass, and Hydropower The Homeowner’s Energy Handbook: Your Guide to Getting Off the Grid Energy Audits and Improvements for Commercial Buildings Insulate and Weatherize: For Energy Efficiency at Home (Taunton’s Build Like a Pro) The Very Hungry City: Urban Energy Efficiency and the Economic Fate of Cities Renewable Energy Made Easy: Free Energy from Solar, Wind, Hydropower, and Other Alternative Energy Sources Flow in the Office: Implementing and Sustaining Lean Improvements 5th Grade English Workbook: Writing Improvements & Printing Practice Value Stream Management for the Lean Office: Eight Steps to Planning, Mapping, & Sustaining Lean Improvements in Administrative Areas The Renewable Energy Handbook: A Guide to Rural Energy Independence, Off-Grid and Sustainable Living The Renewable Energy Home Handbook: Insulation & energy saving, Living off-grid, Bio-mass heating, Wind turbines, Solar electric PV generation, Solar water heating, Heat pumps, & more Homeowner’s Complete Guide to the Chainsaw: A Chainsaw Pro Shows You How to Safely and Confidently Handle Everything from Trimming Branches and Felling Trees to Splitting and Stacking Wood The Florida Homeowner’s Guide To Wind Mitigation Discounts and Insurance Savings Smart GuideÃ Â®: Garages & Carports (Smart Guide (Creative Homeowner)) Roofing the right way: A step-by-step guide for the homeowner The Claim Game: A Homeowner’s Guide to Avoiding an Insurance Catastrophe Filing a Homeowner’s Claim: Natural Disaster or Not (A Real Life Legal Guide) Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff and It’s All Small Stuff: Simple Ways to Keep the Little Things From Taking Over Your Life (Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff Series) 100 Things Every Homeowner Must Know: How to Save Money, Solve Problems and Improve Your Home