



MAKING ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS SIMPLE & AFFORDABLE

October 5, 2015

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Home Energy Score

Aspen vs. Park City

Holy Cross Energy Invests in Aspen Schools

Love 'Em and Leave 'Em

Add It To Your Calendar

Events:

"Will Urbanization Wreck or Save the Planet?"

Tues., Oct. 13
6pm

Limelight Hotel

Public Lecture delivered by Karen Seto, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

Hosted by Aspen Global Change Institute.

14th Annual ACES Harvest Festival at Rock Bottom Ranch

Sat., Oct. 17
12PM - 4PM

This family-friendly party includes live music, local food, pumpkin carving, dancing and more!

[Purchase tickets here.](#)

Green Drinks

Wed., Oct. 21
5 - 7PM

"Bluegreen"

300 S. Spring Street
Suite #202
Aspen

Enjoy free drinks and refreshments, meet new people, network, and discuss solutions to our environmental problems.

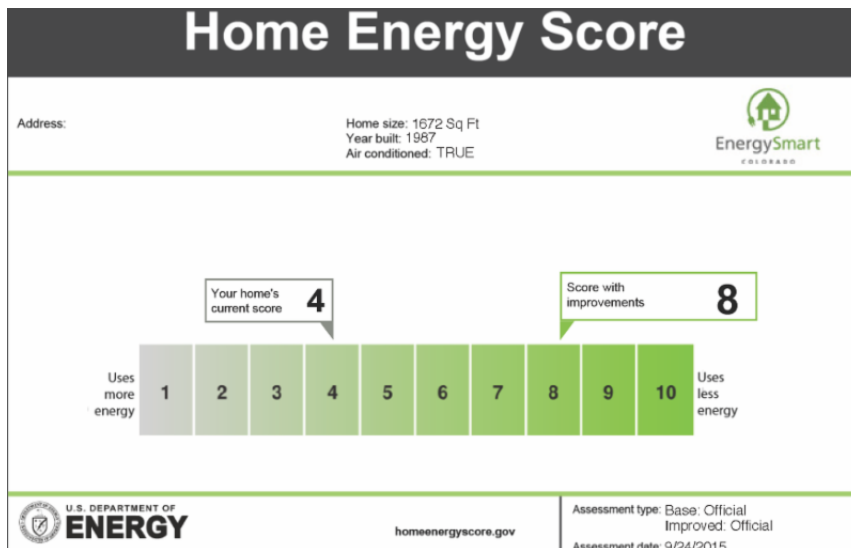
Interested in applying for a CORE grant?

[Email Lucy](#) to find out more information about the 2015

What is your "Home Energy Score?"

Now you can find out!

When you're in the market for a new car there are many factors to consider such as comfort, safety, style and fuel efficiency. But when it comes to buying a home, quantifying efficiency hasn't been so easy, until now. The Energy Smart Colorado team has been hard at work expanding the [Energy Smart Home Energy Assessment](#) to incorporate the "Home Energy Score," a rating from 1-10 that evaluates a home's energy performance.



Similar to the miles-per-gallon rating for a car, the Home Energy Score allows homebuyers and owners to more easily understand a home's energy performance, see how it compares to other homes in your area, and estimates what score they could achieve after energy efficiency improvements are made.

This new functionality is only available in a few locations in the US and one of those places is the Roaring Fork Valley! For the same cost of a Home Energy Assessment, you can now get the assessment plus the Home Energy Score.

[Sign up for your Home Energy Assessment](#) today and discover *your* Home Energy Score!

It's a Ski Town Showdown!

Aspen Competes with Park City on LED Lightbulbs and Smart Thermostats

Park City has challenged the City of Aspen to a ["Ski Town Showdown."](#) a friendly competition measuring which community can install the most smart thermostats and LED light bulbs in the month of



October.

To help Aspen dominate this competition, Energy Smart Colorado at CORE and the City of Aspen are giving away free smart thermostats (a \$250 value) to Aspen residents who complete [a rebate-eligible energy upgrade](#), such as adding insulation or purchasing a high efficiency water heater. If you are not planning on making any upgrades to your home, you can still get [25% up to \\$500](#) from CORE for purchasing a smart thermostat.

Residential, commercial, and municipal entities can also participate through installing LED lights and [applying for rebates of up to \\$1,000](#) from Energy Smart Colorado and the City of Aspen. Holy Cross Energy also has great rebates of 50% of project cost or up to \$10 back per LED.

"Both Aspen and Park City are already seeing the effects of a changing climate and these high elevation ski resorts are relying on the global community to reduce emissions to curb the effects of global warming," says Ashley Perl, the City of Aspen's Climate Action Manager. "Let's start the action at home and lead the way in reducing our carbon footprint."

For more visit: <http://www.energysmartcolorado.com/skitownshowdown/>

Holy Cross Energy and CORE help the Aspen School District "Think Big!"

Decreasing electricity consumption by twelve percent

When the School District was looking to make energy improvements in their buildings, they turned to CORE for guidance. CORE provided a grant which paid for a report commissioned by SGM that outlined a number of energy savings opportunities at the school.

In 2013, [Holy Cross Energy](#) announced a new, generous funding source, called the "Think Big Grant," which provided the perfect opportunity to help fund these potential energy upgrades. The matching grant provided \$125,000 to the Aspen School District, allowing them to make critical energy efficiency improvements including LED lighting and installing



The new LED lights in the

Building Automation Controls. The School District covered the remaining project costs of \$160,000.

woodshop are saving 16,000kWh annually, equivalent to two households worth of electricity usage.

Needless to say, these upgrades have worked.

- The School District has cut their overall electricity use by 12%, as compared to 2013.
- The biggest savings were from LED upgrades at the High School, which saved 23%, as compared to 2013.
- These upgrades are saving over 500,000 kWh annually at the Middle School and High School.
- These savings are equivalent to 59 homes' worth of electricity usage.
- This amounts to saving almost \$40,000 annually, the equivalent starting salary of a teacher.
- These savings will pay for the project cost in about 4 years.

In addition to the energy savings, there were multiple other benefits pertaining to comfort that teachers and administrators alike have cited. The outdated fluorescent light fixtures, known for their buzzing and flickering, were updated to more energy-efficient and higher quality light LED fixtures.

Brian Childress, the Aspen School District Director of Curriculum, emphasizes the project's success, "at Aspen School District we are committed to community partnership like those with the City and CORE. Those partnerships are yielding great dividends for our students and our schools."

The Think Big Grant supported big projects that led to substantial energy savings that will help Aspen's chances in competing for the Georgetown University Energy Prize. Learn more about the "Aspen Energy Challenge" and how you can participate [here](#).

Love 'Em and Leave 'Em as Mother Nature Intended

Don't Bag Up Your Leaves, Leave Them!

Bagging leaves and sending them to the landfill uses fossil fuels to transport the leaves and wastes precious nutrients in the leaves that could otherwise serve as an organic fertilizer for your soil. Start a new tradition this fall and mulch-mow instead.



With a specially designed blade for mulching, available at the Carbondale Ace Hardware, you can easily mulch-mow the leaves into the grass, allowing the soil microbes to decompose of the leaves right into your grass. The nutrients from the fallen leaves will decompose and enrich your soil and come spring your lawn will be healthier.

[Click on this link](#) to view the "Love 'Em and Leave 'Em" campaign brochure created by the Carbondale Environmental Board.

Efficiently yours,

Lucy Kessler
Community Office for Resource Efficiency

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