



SPECIAL REPORT #6

Why Choose High Efficiency Heating and Cooling Equipment?

Saving Money On Your Utility Bills Is Not The Only Reason

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), **the average house contributes more to outdoor air pollution than the average car.**



(Annual emissions- 22,000 pounds of CO₂ per house vs. 10,000 pounds of CO₂ per car).

Houses contribute to air pollution in two ways:

- 1) by burning fossil fuels such as natural gas, fuel oil, or propane and
- 2) by using electricity: more than 70 percent of the electricity generated in the US comes from burning coal, oil, or natural gas.

For example, a 100-watt light bulb will, on average, use 100 kWh over its life. Generating this electricity requires: 107 pounds of coal or 7 gallons of gasoline or 1,119 cubic feet of natural gas or 1.3 ounces of uranium oxide (for nuclear power plants).

In the interests of reducing outdoor air pollution, the EPA “Energy Star” program labels high efficiency heating and cooling equipment which meets their specifications.

By Choosing a High Efficiency Furnace with the Energy Star label instead of a standard efficiency furnace, the reduction in pollution over the equipment lifetime is equal to not burning 1400 gallons of gasoline.

By Choosing a High Efficiency Air Source Heat Pump with the Energy Star label instead of a standard efficiency model, the pollution reduction over the first 12 years is equal to not driving your car 32,000 miles.

In a hot climate, it would take a coal-burning power plant more than 1000 pounds of coal just to operate the average air conditioner for one summer. A new Energy Star labeled air conditioner could reduce the amount of coal needed by 300-400 pounds.

If everyone chose to purchase Energy Star labeled heating & cooling equipment instead of standard efficiency equipment over the next 15 years, air pollution would be reduced by the equivalent of removing **10 million cars from the road each year.**



Do your part to protect the environment, and choose an Energy Star rated system. Saving money is not the only reason to choose a high efficiency system.



Ask for Heating & Cooling Equipment with the Energy Star® Logo, the Symbol for Energy Efficiency.

For more information on Energy Star, contact your Comfort Institute member contractor, or www.energystar.gov