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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TERMS EVERY HOMEOWNER SHOULD KNOW

As widespread as energy efficiency has come to be, it can still spin you in circles when you're bombarded with acronyms and industry lingo. Here are some terms that will make learning about your home's energy more manageable.

R-VALUE



All insulation materials are rated by R-values. The R stands for resistance, as in, resistance to the heat that flows in and out of your home year-round. The recommended R-value you'll need depends on where you live, the type of heating and cooling system you have, and the area of your home that you're insulating.

DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT



You may have heard of this all-in-one heating and cooling solution called a DMS, heat pump, total climate control, or mini-split heat pump. It requires zero ductwork, has the ability to heat and cool your home, and is an efficient way to save money on energy costs. It can condition single rooms or additions efficiently!

AFUE



AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency) shows how efficient your furnace or boiler is at converting energy to heat over a year. The higher the AFUE rating is, the more efficient it is. A furnace with an AFUE rating of 80% turns 80% of its energy into heat. A high efficiency unit can have a rating between 90–97%.

PHANTOM LOAD



A phantom load, vampire energy, or ghost load, is energy used when a device is turned off or in standby mode, but still plugged in. Computers, gaming consoles, and TVs are the most common items to continue drawing from the grid when you're away or asleep. 1/4 of all home energy use is from devices in idle power mode.*

SEER



A SEER rating shows your cooling system's average performance over a full year. The higher your Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating, the better it is for your wallet and the planet. ACs on the market today have a SEER rating from 13–25 and cannot drop below that mark according to the U.S. DOE regulations in place.

AIR SEALING



Air sealing is your home's windbreaker; it reduces the amount of air that leaks in and out of your home all year. Common leaks occur around doors, windows, outlets, attic hatches, and recessed lighting. Air sealing can reduce energy use, save you money, improve indoor air quality, and make your home more comfortable.

CARBON FOOTPRINT



A carbon footprint is the total greenhouse gases created by actions like driving a car, leaving porch lights on, taking connecting flights, heating and cooling a home, or streaming movies. It includes carbon dioxide and others like methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases, which are known to cause global warming.

LED



LED, or Light-Emitting Diode, is an energy-efficient lighting technology for commercial or residential applications. LED light bulbs give off little to no heat while incandescent light bulbs release 90% of their energy as heat. LED light bulbs use at least 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

*National Resources Defense Council

To learn more about home energy efficiency and how to access the best rebates and incentives to go green at home, visit homeworksenergy.com.