

THE "BE AN ENERGY STAR DETECTIVE" CHALLENGE

Here's the challenge:

Look carefully at the picture of the house on this page. Now imagine that you are an energy detective who was hired to detect energy inefficiency in this home. In 200 words or less, write a report to the family who lives in this home describing the problems you discovered and suggesting ways in which this home could be made more energy efficient. You must include *all* the vocabulary words listed below.

ENERGY STAR® Detectives will find

all of the problems in this house and will use *all* the vocabulary words listed below.

The Vocabulary Words:

Appliance: a machine that uses electricity to make life easier or more fun, such as a stereo, lamp, DVD player, dishwasher, or washing machine

Compact fluorescent lightbulb: a specially designed lightbulb that uses less energy and lasts longer than an ordinary lightbulb

Energy efficient: something that uses energy while wasting little or none; for example, an energy-efficient appliance or lighting fixture

ENERGY STAR: the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency, jointly managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy

The label was created to help consumers quickly and easily identify lighting products, appliances, home office equipment, home theater/consumer electronics, and a range of other products that save energy and money—and that help protect the environment.

Insulation: material used to keep warm or cool air inside homes and buildings

Kilowatt hour: the amount of electricity used over time (number of kilowatts x number of hours used = number of kilowatt hours)

Watt: a measure of the amount of electricity used by a product

