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## **Home Energy Audits Loan Kits**

**Thermal leak detectors:** We have two kits available, with different leak detectors in them. The primary difference between the two detectors is the visual representation; both can be used to find insulation gaps and leaks around windows, doors, electrical and plumbing penetrations, attics, crawl spaces.

- Black and Decker: has a thermal leak detector in which temperature differences are represented by a change in color of a dot of light.
- FLIR infrared camera: shows a more visual graphic of colder and warmer areas – this one requires a \$100 fully refundable deposit. For a video on using the FLIR camera, go here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gg330B9U9Os>.

**Kill-a-Watt power monitor:** help find phantom loads as well as evaluating the cost of running an appliance. A phantom load occurs when an appliance uses electricity even when turned off; over the course of many months and many appliances, this can add up to quite a bit of wasted energy and money. The power monitor also allows the user to determine how much money an appliance costs to run, and whether it might be cost-effective to buy a new one. CSU Extension even has a calculator to help you get the most from your investigations: [extension.colostate.edu/docs/energy/pmws.xlsx](https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/energy/pmws.xlsx).

**Thermometers:** to make sure that you aren't wasting money by keeping your refrigerator and freezer too cold, or your hot water heater too hot.

**Flicker checker:** if you have long fluorescent tubes, you can check whether you have inefficient ballasts or not.

Videos on how to use everything can be found on the YourEnergyColorado website: [yourenergy.extension.colostate.edu/heal](https://yourenergy.extension.colostate.edu/heal).

If you want to step up your game, you can do a more in-depth do-it-yourself energy audit by completing all the steps outlined in the assessment form found here: <http://diyenergy.colostate.edu/home.php>. It will provide you with specific suggestions to improve energy efficiency as well as a score and general statement about your home's energy use.

Finally, for an informative yet fun read, check out the infographic-filled home energy guide: [yourenergy.extension.colostate.edu/home-energy-guide](https://yourenergy.extension.colostate.edu/home-energy-guide). It describes all of the steps Average Jane (and her dog Pepe) could take to improve her home's energy performance.