



## Home Energy Research Procedures

Pecan Street's Home Energy Research is an exciting opportunity for homeowners throughout the Austin area to influence national standards on energy efficiency. Through monitoring technology deployed in 100 houses, our Home Energy Research will aggregate data gathered over a 12-month period to create a multi-faceted analysis of energy use in older homes. The purpose of the study is to understand what motivates (or de-motivates) owners of these homes to make energy efficiency improvements. Researchers will use the same methodologies and energy measurement systems that are being deployed through our Energy Internet Demonstration in the Mueller community.

University of Texas researchers tell us that no one else in the world has ever performed an analysis of this level of detail on home utility usage. With your help, the data we collect throughout the year is going to revolutionize how we approach home resource conservation--while providing you a wealth of information on ways to reduce your utility bills.

### Eligibility factors

In order to qualify to participate in Pecan Street's Home Energy Research, you must be an Austin Energy customer with a home that meets the following criteria:

- Constructed prior to 2000,
- Single-family, owner-occupied and
- Outfitted with broadband Internet connectivity with a router that has an available Ethernet port

### What do I receive?

The 100 homes selected to take part in our Home Energy Research Study will receive energy monitoring equipment that captures minute-to-minute energy usage for the whole home and up to six major appliances or systems. Deployed by Austin-based Incenergy LLC, the monitoring system was designed to be passive and nearly invisible in the home.

Participants in our Home Energy Research will also receive a free home energy audit from Austin Energy approved auditors, and, at the conclusion of the data study, a confidential and detailed report on energy usage of their home and its major appliances over the course of each day and of the year. Finally, participants are eligible to take part in the Pecan Street Enhanced Solar Rebate Program. Find out more in the Get Involved section of our website.

### Enrollment procedures

Participants must complete a brief questionnaire that is sent via email as a means of showing preliminary interest in our Home Energy Research. In order to formally enroll, you must complete and return--via email attachment to [enroll@pecanstreetproject.org](mailto:enroll@pecanstreetproject.org) or to our offices at 3925 W. Braker Lane, 78759--the following documents:

- Home Energy Research Participation Agreement
- Release of Customer Information Authorization forms, which grant Pecan Street access to your electric, water and gas consumption data

All enrollment documents are available in the Get Involved section of our website. Remember, **the deadline to enroll is August 31, 2011**. Interested participants should contact Pecan Street prior to that date.



### **What to expect**

As part of participation in the Home Energy Research, volunteers will be contacted via email by Incenergy LLC to set up energy monitoring equipment, and by one of Pecan Street's energy auditors to schedule your free home energy audit. Appointments are made online through our online scheduling tool; directions for use and navigation will be provided at the time you are contacted. Monitoring equipment installation typically takes about one hour, while energy audits can take between one and three hours.

Homes in the study will have their gas meters replaced with a new smart meter as a means of transmitting data. The replacement is performed by Texas Gas Service--while they do not inform us of the exact date of the swap, it will take place within a few weeks of initial enrollment. This is standard operating procedure for Texas Gas, who do not require that you be present when the swap is conducted.

In the event that your monitoring system is not operating properly, Incenergy will contact you with instructions on resetting the device. If you notice your system is malfunctioning, please contact Pecan Street at 512.782.9213 or by emailing [abeck@pecanstreetproject.org](mailto:abeck@pecanstreetproject.org). Procedural inquiries should be directed to [csmithson@pecanstreetproject.org](mailto:csmithson@pecanstreetproject.org).

Individual home reports depicting energy consumption over the year will not be available until after the conclusion of the Home Energy Research. The results of enhanced home energy audits will be made available to the resident within 30 business days of the audit.