



Department Source: Sustainability

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 18, 2021

Re: Report: Climate and Environment Commission Request to explore options to increase the accessibility of Home Energy Scores.

## Executive Summary

This report from the Climate and Environment Commission describes the benefits of improving the accessibility of Home Energy Scores to the real estate and rental markets; meeting several Climate Action and Adaptation Plan actions; supporting an existing Water & Light incentive program; and asks Council to support city staff's development and implementation of "opt-out" processes for existing and future Home Energy Scores on the Green Building Registry. (<https://us.greenbuildingregistry.com/green-homes>)

## Discussion

Developed by the US Department of Energy, the Home Energy Score (HES) provides an estimation of the annual utility costs for a home based on the physical attributes of the building and assuming certain operating conditions and occupant behaviors. The HES has been offered as a part of the Water & Light Utility's Home Performance with Energy Star program since 2012. At that time, there was no available mechanism for making HES or other similar scores publicly available; and so no communication happened with the homeowners about making the scores accessible. Now, the Green Building Registry, provides such a platform.

There are around 4,000 homes in Columbia that have received a Home Energy Score that are not publicly available. This limits the potential value of the scores to current and prospective homeowners, renters, and the real estate market. More accessible HES also supports market demand for energy efficiency which can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

## Legislative History

Date	Action
None	None

## Suggested Council Action

The report requests that Council support city staff's development and implementation of 'opt-out' processes for existing and future home performance energy scores to make score details available.