

MURPHY SURVEYS ENERGY CONSULTANTS

Extending our range of survey services into the area of energy consulting was a natural progression for Murphy Surveys. The experience and knowledge we have gained having worked for 25 years as a consultant in the construction industry enables us to offer an extra dimension of know-how to every energy consult we complete.

OUR SERVICES

- Building Energy Ratings (BER)
- Energy Audits
- Air Tightness Tests
- Thermal Imaging

COST EFFICIENCIES

Due to the significant energy price increases, reduction of energy costs has become a key focus for the cost efficient operation of our buildings today. In essence, becoming more energy efficient saves you money.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Energy is essential to the comfort of our homes, providing space and water heating and electricity. However, there are many ways in the design, construction and operation of our homes of reducing energy needs and meeting those needs with renewable sources, without compromising warmth and comfort. Currently, we rely heavily on fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas to provide our energy needs. Fossil fuels are non-renewable, that is, they draw on finite resources that will eventually run out. In contrast, renewable energy resources, provided from the sun, wind and water are constantly replenished and will never run out. Fossil fuels are also damaging to the environment. They contribute significantly to many of the environmental problems we face today such as greenhouse gases, air pollution, and water and soil contamination - while renewable energy technologies enjoy lower running costs and are clean sources of energy that have a much lower environmental impact. Energy is available from a variety of renewable sources appropriate to our homes, including solar, geothermal, biomass, hydro and wind.

BUILDING ENERGY RATINGS (BER)

What is a Building Energy Rating? A Building Energy Rating (BER) is the process of rating a property in terms of efficiency and energy use. The rating uses a scale from A1 to G, and is not dissimilar to energy scales found on domestic electric appliances. An A1 rating is the highest achievable and a G rating being the worst.

Murphy Surveys are registered BER assessors who have been trained under the National Framework of Qualifications and have registered with Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI). All registered assessors must adhere to the BER Assessors Code of Conduct



Legal Requirement of BERs: A BER is required at the point of sale or let and the implementation dates of the new legislation as detailed below.

New Dwellings Since July 1st 2008, all new dwellings must have a BER rating.

New Non-Domestic Since July 1st 2008 the regulations apply to new non-domestic buildings for which planning permission was applied for on/after 1st July 2008. Transitional BER exemptions will apply to new non-domestic, buildings for which planning permission is applied on or before June 2008 provided the no new non-domestic buildings involved are substantially completed by 30th June 2010.

Existing Buildings (dwellings or other buildings) ,From January 1st 2009 a BER is required when existing buildings (dwellings or other buildings) are offered for sale or letting on or after 1st January 2009. Once we have completed a rating on your property, you will receive an SEI issued certificate of your rating in addition to an advisory report, also issued by SEI, which will outline the changes that can be made to improve the rating of the property.

Large Public Service Buildings. A public body shall, in relation to a large building occupied (>1000m²) by it on or after 1 January 2009, secure and display a BER certificate in a prominent place clearly visible to the public.

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ENERGY AUDITS

What is an Energy Audit? An Energy Audit is the best way to assess how much energy your property consumes and where savings can be made. The objective of the audit is to assess the energy loss through the buildings fabric. As a result of the audit we can then offer advice on practical choices and solutions that will improve the energy efficiency of your home or building.



What is included in an Energy Audit? Electrical usage, ventilation, lighting, insulation, space and water heating systems, windows and doors are all included in the audit. The audit will provide you with an advisory report which will outline suggested improvements that can be made and give an indication of the impact these improvements will make. Suggested Improvements will follow in three stages designed to meet with both your budget and long term objectives.

- No- Cost
- Low- Cost
- High-Cost

AIR TIGHTNESS

What is Air Tightness testing? Air tightness testing became mandatory for all new dwellings when the building regulations were revised in January 2008. As a result of this regulation, from July 1st 2008 all new single dwellings are required to have an air tightness test carried out. It is a measure of the amount of air that can infiltrate or exfiltrate a buildings structural envelope as a result of gaps, openings, porosity etc which occur due to poor workmanship or bad building design. Air tightness testing of buildings is also known as "Blower Door Testing" or "Air Permeability Testing".

THERMAL IMAGING

Thermal imaging is used to see what the naked eye cannot see. Thermal imaging cameras are hi-tech infrared camera that can determine patterns of heat loss through the fabric of a building. When used in conjunction with air tightness testing it allows us to detect air leakages more accurately and therefore identify the most appropriate solution.

For more detailed information of the services offered by Murphy Surveys Energy Consultants, please contact Diarmuid Murphy on + 353 045 484040