

WADE KAPSZUKIEWICZ

— LUCAS COUNTY TREASURER —
LUCAS COUNTY LAND BANK CHAIRMAN

You & Your Money 

Home Energy Audits

The Holiday Season is fully upon us, which means shopping lists full of decorations, egg nog, and presents. Lucas County families know the more they can stretch their dollars, the more cheer they will be able to afford with friends and family.

When looking for ways to save money, one idea to consider is getting a home energy audit, especially as cold temperatures invade our region.

Here's how it works: an energy auditor will walk through your home, review your bills, and conduct a series of tests, sometimes using infrared cameras or thermographic scanners. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a professional energy audit can give you a thorough picture of where your home is losing energy and what you can do to save money. In fact, following an audit, citizens typically save between 5%-30% on energy costs by making recommended upgrades.

Before an energy auditor visits your home, make a list of any existing problems (condensation, drafty rooms) and have copies of your energy bills handy. Before contracting with an energy auditor, be sure to get several references and check with the Better Business Bureau (419-531-3116) to see if any complaints have been filed against the company.

You can learn more about home energy audits by visiting the U.S. Department of Energy's website at **Energy.gov**. While you are there, be sure to search the "**Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency**" to see if you qualify for incentives to assist with your audit. If you are a customer of Columbia Gas, you can schedule an assessment by calling **1-877-644-6674**.

Make the call or visit the website today. This isn't just about making sure Santa slides down the chimney into a warm living room. It's about saving money.



As the guardian of your tax dollars, **Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz** wants to make sure you have all the information you need to make wise decisions about your personal finances. *You & Your Money* is a newsletter that addresses issues of importance to the financial well-being of Lucas County families.