



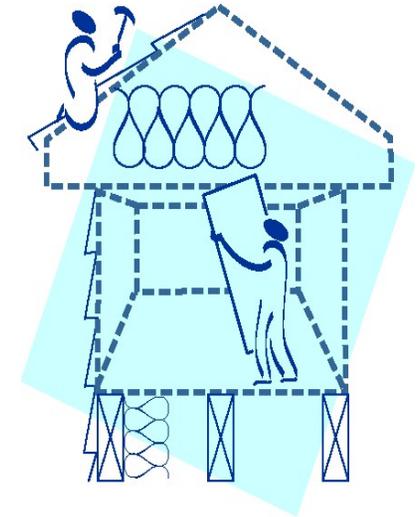
**James D. Cavallo** is principal at Kouba-Cavallo Associates, Inc. He holds a PhD. in economics from New York University. Prior to starting his company, he was on the research staff at Argonne National Laboratory specializing in pollution prevention and energy efficiency. He is a certified home energy rater and a member of RESNET. He is on the board of directors of the Illinois Association of Energy Raters and a member of the Environmental Concerns Commission of Downers Grove, IL.

## Kouba-Cavallo Associates, Inc.

6912 Main Street  
Suite 123  
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Phone: 630 971-2016  
Fax: 630 971-1505  
Email: [cavallo@Kouba-Cavallo.com](mailto:cavallo@Kouba-Cavallo.com)

## What Happens in an Energy Rating



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**630 971-2016**

**[cavallo@Kouba-Cavallo.com](mailto:cavallo@Kouba-Cavallo.com)**

**[www.Kouba-Cavallo.com](http://www.Kouba-Cavallo.com)**

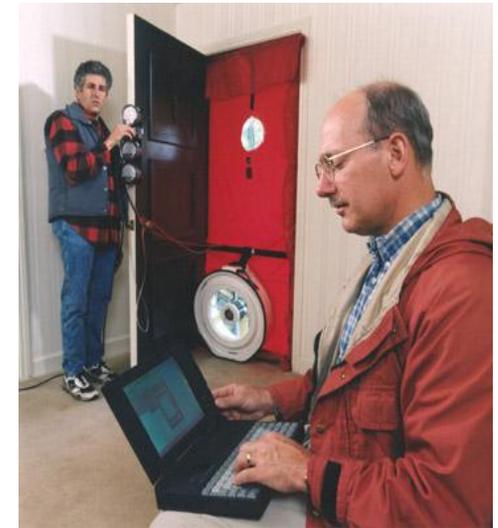
Energy ratings are usually conducted to certify a new home for the Energy Star Homes program or the LEED for Homes program. The following lists the typical steps in the process.

- ◆ Analyzing the plans for the house before construction begins so that one can determine if the house if built as planned will meet the criteria of the Energy Star Homes program or LEED for Homes program.
- ◆ Inspection of the house just before the walls are insulated to evaluate compliance with the Thermal Bypass Checklist (available on the EnergyStar.gov website).
- ◆ Inspection of the house after the walls are insulated but before drywall seals up the walls to evaluate the likely effectiveness of the wall insulation.
- ◆ Conduct a blower door test after construction is completed to evaluate air infiltration.
- ◆ Conduct duct pressure testing if ducts extend outside the conditioned space.
- ◆ Submit documentation for Energy Star Homes certification of the house.

Developers or owners of a certified Energy Star Home can receive a bronze plaque identifying the home as an Energy Star Home. The plaque can be mounted on the house.

Payment for the energy rating is broken into progress payments. Payments are expected within 30 days of invoicing.

We are happy to respond to questions about the Energy Star Homes program or the rating process. Generally we do not engage in extensive consulting on energy rating projects so that we can maintain our independent, third-party status as an evaluator of the project.



## Using Advanced Equipment

Kouba-Cavallo Associates uses advanced equipment to test homes for Energy Star Homes or LEED for Homes programs and to diagnose home comfort and energy problems. Blower door testing (see picture above) has proven to be an excellent way to identify air infiltrating or escaping from the house and creating areas of discomfort.