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Green(back) Grails

So where'd the \$900 in black gold that you just pumped into your home heating-oil tank go? Maybe out the drafty roof, windows, and doors? You can find out for sure by recruiting one of the home-energy audit experts who do thermal detective work for a living.

For \$345-500, Baltimore's TerraLogos Green Home Service, (*terralogos.com*), also known for its green architecture services, uses air blasters, infra-red devices, and other tools in a three-hour roof-to-basement inspection, then gives you a to-do list that could cut heating costs by up to a third, whether you use oil, electric, or gas.

So are they enriching themselves by pitching repairs you don't need? Nope, says President Peter Van Buren: They don't do the repairs, they just find the leaks. But they can point to approved green contractors to do the work. Or go to the website of the association that represents the "home performance" experts, *mdhomeperformance.org*.

Another outfit obsessed with home energy ratings is Burtonsville-based Efficient Home (*efficienthomellc.com*), which provides audits that cover everything down to the performance of furnaces and water heaters.

Which, this winter, could mean pumping a whole lot less Texas tea.

