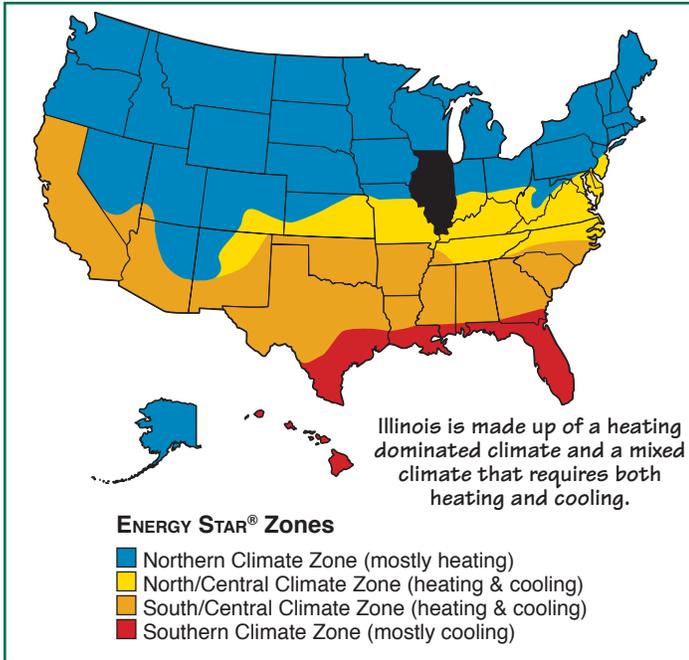


# Fact Sheet: Selecting Energy Efficient Windows in Illinois



## Benefits of High Performance Windows

### Cooling and Heating Season Savings

Low-E coatings, gas-fills, and insulating spacers and frames can significantly reduce winter heat loss and summer heat gain.

### Improved Daylight and View

New glazings with low-solar-gain low-E coatings can reduce solar heat gain significantly with a minimal loss of visible light (compared to older tints and films).

### Improved Comfort

In summer and winter occupant comfort is increased; window temperatures are more moderate and there are fewer cold drafts. Discomfort from strong summer sunlight is reduced.

### Reduced Condensation

Frame and glazing materials that resist heat conduction do not become cold and this results in less condensation.

### Reduced Fading

Coatings on glass or plastic films within the window assembly can significantly reduce the ultraviolet (UV) and other solar radiation which causes fading of fabrics and furnishings.

### Lower Mechanical Equipment Costs

Using windows that significantly reduce solar heat gain means that cooling equipment costs may be reduced.



Visit [www.efficientwindows.org](http://www.efficientwindows.org) for more information on the benefits of efficient windows, how windows work, how to select an efficient window, and what manufacturers provide efficient windows.

## 1. Look for the ENERGY STAR®

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have developed an ENERGY STAR ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)) designation for products meeting certain energy performance criteria. Since performance of windows and skylights vary by climate, product recommendations are given for the four ENERGY STAR climate zones. To distinguish between ENERGY STAR products, go to Step 2.



## 2. Look for Efficient Window Properties on the NFRC Label

The National Fenestration Rating Council NFRC ([www.nfrc.org](http://www.nfrc.org)) has developed a window rating system based on whole window product performance. The NFRC label provides the only reliable way to determine the energy efficient properties and to compare products. The NFRC label appears on all fenestration products which are part of the ENERGY STAR program. See Page 2 for the recommended properties for this climate. For typical cost savings from efficient windows in a specific location, go to Step 3.

		World's Best Window Co. Millennium 2000+ Vinyl-Clad Wood Frame Double Glazing - Argon Fill - Low E Product Type: Vertical Slider (per NFRC 100-97)	
<b>ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS</b>			
U-Factor (U.S./I-P)	<b>0.35</b>	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient	<b>0.32</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS</b>			
Visible Transmittance	<b>0.51</b>	Air Leakage (U.S./I-P)	<b>0.2</b>
<small>Manufacturer indicates that these ratings conform to applicable NFRC procedures for determining whole product performance. NFRC ratings are determined by a look-out environmental condition and a specific product size. Consult manufacturer literature for other product performance information. <a href="http://www.nfrc.org">www.nfrc.org</a></small>			

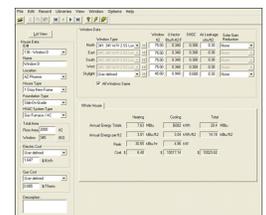
## 3. Compare Annual Energy Costs for a Typical House

Computer simulations for a typical 2000 square-foot house are used to compare the annual energy performance of different window types. A comparison of the energy performance of a set of windows for this climate begins on Page 3.



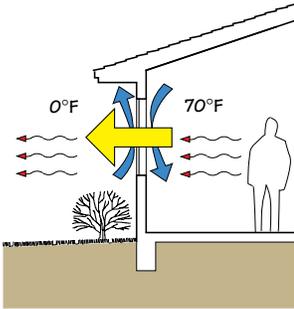
## 4. Customize Energy Use Calculations for a Specific House

A computer simulation program, such as RESFEN ([windows.lbl.gov/software/resfen](http://windows.lbl.gov/software/resfen)), lets you compare window options by customizing calculations by adding heating and cooling costs for your climate, house design options, and utility rates.



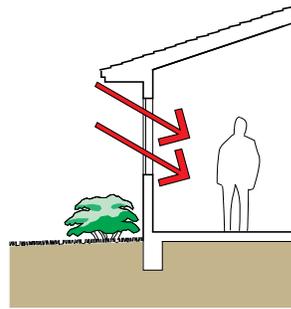


## Look for Efficient Window Properties on the NFRC Label



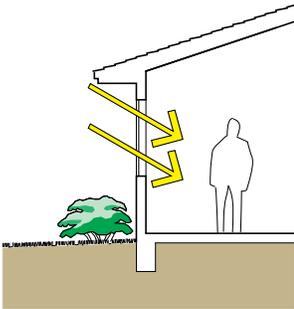
### U-Factor

The rate of heat loss is indicated in terms of the U-factor (U-value) of a window assembly. The insulating value is indicated by the R-value which is the inverse of the U-value. The lower the U-factor, the greater a window's resistance to heat flow and the better its insulating value. U=U-factor in Btu/hr-sf-°F.



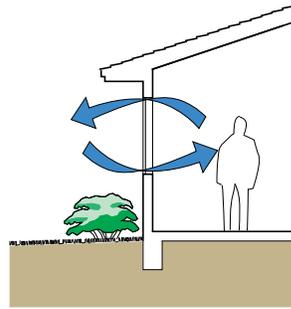
### Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)

The SHGC is the fraction of incident solar radiation admitted through a window. SHGC is expressed as a number between 0 and 1. The lower a window's solar heat gain coefficient, the less solar heat it transmits. Use a computer program such as RESFEN to understand heating and cooling trade-offs. SHGC=Solar Heat Gain Coefficient in fraction of incident solar angle.



### Visible Transmittance (VT)

The visible transmittance (VT) is an optical property that indicates the amount of visible light transmitted. The NFRC's VT is a whole window rating and includes the impact of the frame which does not transmit any visible light. While VT theoretically varies between 0 and 1, most values are between 0.3 and 0.8. The higher the VT, the more light is transmitted. A high VT is desirable to maximize daylight. VT=Visible Transmittance in fraction of incident visible radiation.



### Air Leakage (AL)

Heat loss and gain occur by infiltration through cracks in the window assembly. Air leakage is expressed in cubic feet of air passing through a square foot of window area. The lower the AL, the less air will pass through cracks in the assembly. While many think that AL is extremely important, it is not as important as U-factor and SHGC. AL=Air Leakage in cfm/sf.



■ Northern Climate Zone (mostly heating)  
■ North/Central Climate Zone (heating & cooling)

## Recommended Properties in the Northern Zone (mostly heating)

U-factor	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)	Visible Transmittance (VT)	Air Leakage (AL)
<b>Windows: <math>U \leq 0.35</math></b> <b>Skylights: <math>U \leq 0.60^*</math></b>  Note: If air conditioning loads are minimal, windows with U-factors as high as 0.40 are also energy-efficient if the Solar Heat Gain Coefficient is 0.50 or higher.	No requirement.  Note: To reduce heating, select the highest SHGC you can find (usually 0.30-0.60 for the U-factor ranges required in colder climates) so that winter solar gains can offset a portion of the heating energy need. If cooling is a significant concern, select windows with a SHGC less than 0.55. Select skylights with a SHGC of 0.55 or less.	No requirement.  Note: Select windows with a higher VT to maximize daylight and view.	No requirement.  Note: Select windows with an AL of 0.30 or less.

## Recommended Properties in the North/Central Zone (heating and cooling)

U-factor	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)	Visible Transmittance (VT)	Air Leakage (AL)
<b>Windows: <math>U \leq 0.40</math></b> <b>Skylights: <math>U \leq 0.60^*</math></b>  Note: The larger your heating bill, the more important a low U-factor becomes	<b>Windows: <math>SHGC \leq 0.55</math></b> <b>Skylights: <math>SHGC \leq 0.40</math></b>  Note: If you have significant air conditioning costs or summer overheating problems, look for SHGC values of 0.40 or less. If you have moderate air conditioning requirements, select windows with a SHGC of 0.55 or less. While windows with lower SHGC values reduce summer cooling and overheating, they also reduce free winter solar heat gain.	No requirement.  Note: Select windows with a higher VT to maximize daylight and view.	No requirement.  Note: Select windows with an AL of 0.30 or less.

### Efficient Windows Collaborative

This fact sheet was produced with funding from the Windows and Glazings Program at the U.S. Department of Energy ([www.eren.doe.gov](http://www.eren.doe.gov)) in support of the EWC. For more information, contact:

EWC/Alliance to Save Energy  
1200 18th Street NW, Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
phone 202-857-0666  
fax: 202-331-9588  
[www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org)  
[www.efficientwindows.org](http://www.efficientwindows.org)

### Residential Windows Book

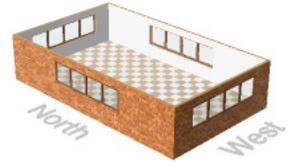
Carmody, J., S. Selkowitz, D. Arasteh, and L. Heschang. Residential Windows: New Technologies and Energy Performance, 3rd ed. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006.

\* U-factor qualification criteria based on 2001 NFRC simulation and certification procedures that rate skylights at a 20-degree angle. For more information, see [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).



## Comparing Window Performance in Chicago, Illinois

The annual energy performance figures shown here were generated using RESFEN for a typical, new 2000 sq. ft. house with 300 sq. ft. of window area (15% of floor area). The windows are equally distributed on all four sides of the house and include typical shading (interior shades, overhangs, trees and neighboring buildings). \*



### Case Studies



**CASE 1**  
double glazing  
clear glass  
aluminum frame  
w/ thermal break

### Properties

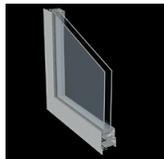
U = 0.63  
SHGC = 0.62  
VT = 0.62

### Annual Energy Use



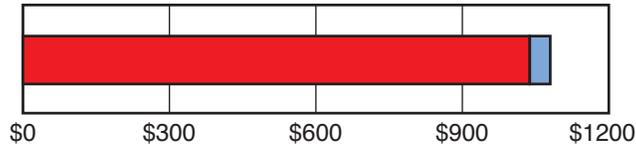
### Costs

Heating \$1028.23  
Cooling \$75.00  
Total \$1103.23



**CASE 2**  
double glazing  
low-E coating  
(low solar gain)  
argon gas fill  
aluminum frame  
w/ thermal break

U = 0.47  
SHGC = 0.33  
VT = 0.53

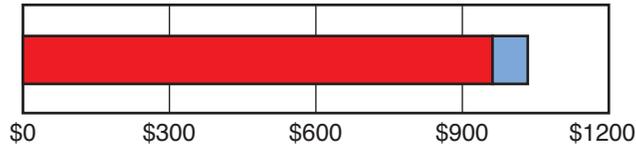


Heating \$1035.84  
Cooling \$41.51  
Total \$1077.35



**CASE 3**  
double glazing  
clear glass  
vinyl/wood frame

U = 0.49  
SHGC = 0.56  
VT = 0.58

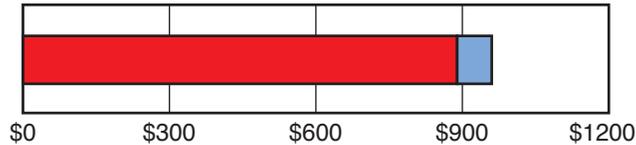


Heating \$961.46  
Cooling \$69.51  
Total \$1030.97



**CASE 4**  
double glazing  
low-E coating  
(high solar gain)  
argon gas fill  
vinyl/wood frame

U = 0.37  
SHGC = 0.53  
VT = 0.53

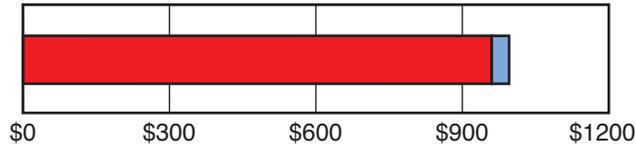


Heating \$891.70  
Cooling \$67.64  
Total \$959.34



**CASE 5**  
double glazing  
low-E coating  
(low solar gain)  
argon gas fill  
vinyl/wood frame

U = 0.34  
SHGC = 0.30  
VT = 0.50

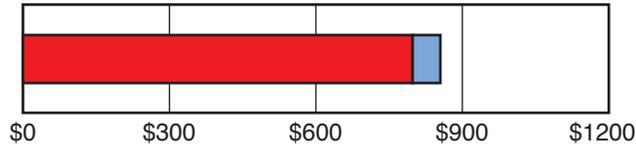


Heating \$957.84  
Cooling \$39.77  
Total \$997.61



**CASE 6**  
triple glazing  
low-E coating  
(mod. solar gain)  
argon gas fill  
insulated vinyl frame

U = 0.18  
SHGC = 0.40  
VT = 0.49



Heating \$800.47  
Cooling \$54.80  
Total \$855.27

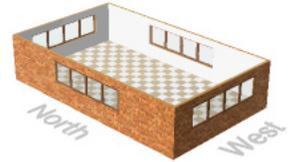


\*Note: U-factor, SHGC, and VT are for the total window including frame. Energy use and savings between different window options will usually be higher for homes which are not as well insulated as typical new homes. The costs shown here are annual costs for space heating and space cooling only and thus will be less than total utility bills. Costs for lights, appliances, hot water, cooking, and other uses are not included in these figures. The mechanical system uses a gas furnace for heating and air conditioning for cooling. These figures are based on year 2005 average costs for electricity and natural gas (natural gas, \$1.248/therm and electricity, \$0.084/kWh). All data is provided by the Energy Information Administration ([www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov)). RESFEN is computer program for calculating the annual cooling and heating energy use and costs due to window selection. It is available from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory ([windows.lbl.gov/software/resfen](http://windows.lbl.gov/software/resfen)).



## Comparing Window Performance in Springfield, Illinois

The annual energy performance figures shown here were generated using RESFEN for a typical, new 2000 sq. ft. house with 300 sq. ft. of window area (15% of floor area). The windows are equally distributed on all four sides of the house and include typical shading (interior shades, overhangs, trees and neighboring buildings). \*



### Case Studies

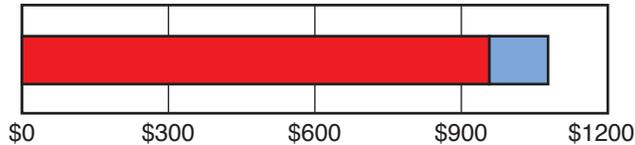


**CASE 1**  
double glazing  
clear glass  
aluminum frame  
w/ thermal break

### Properties

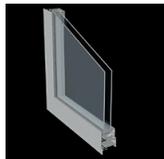
U = 0.63  
SHGC = 0.62  
VT = 0.62

### Annual Energy Use



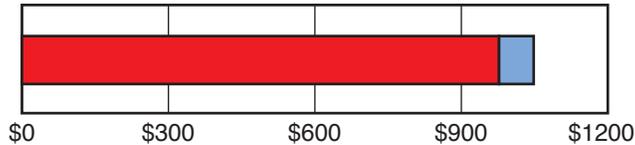
### Costs

Heating \$957.72  
Cooling \$121.45  
Total \$1079.17



**CASE 2**  
double glazing  
low-E coating  
(low solar gain)  
argon gas fill  
aluminum frame  
w/ thermal break

U = 0.47  
SHGC = 0.33  
VT = 0.53

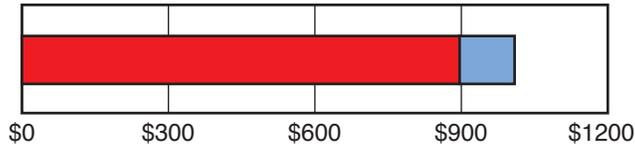


Heating \$973.81  
Cooling \$75.29  
Total \$1049.10



**CASE 3**  
double glazing  
clear glass  
vinyl/wood frame

U = 0.49  
SHGC = 0.56  
VT = 0.58

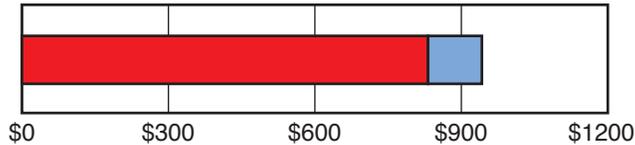


Heating \$897.19  
Cooling \$113.28  
Total \$1010.47



**CASE 4**  
double glazing  
low-E coating  
(high solar gain)  
argon gas fill  
vinyl/wood frame

U = 0.37  
SHGC = 0.53  
VT = 0.53



Heating \$833.29  
Cooling \$110.53  
Total \$943.82



**CASE 5**  
double glazing  
low-E coating  
(low solar gain)  
argon gas fill  
vinyl/wood frame

U = 0.34  
SHGC = 0.30  
VT = 0.50



Heating \$902.30  
Cooling \$72.14  
Total \$974.44



**CASE 6**  
triple glazing  
low-E coating  
(mod. solar gain)  
argon gas fill  
insulated vinyl frame

U = 0.18  
SHGC = 0.40  
VT = 0.49



Heating \$753.04  
Cooling \$91.80  
Total \$844.84



\*Note: U-factor, SHGC, and VT are for the total window including frame. Energy use and savings between different window options will usually be higher for homes which are not as well insulated as typical new homes. The costs shown here are annual costs for space heating and space cooling only and thus will be less than total utility bills. Costs for lights, appliances, hot water, cooking, and other uses are not included in these figures. The mechanical system uses a gas furnace for heating and air conditioning for cooling. These figures are based on year 2005 average costs for electricity and natural gas (natural gas, \$1.248/therm and electricity, \$0.084/kWh). All data is provided by the Energy Information Administration ([www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov)). RESFEN is computer program for calculating the annual cooling and heating energy use and costs due to window selection. It is available from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory ([windows.lbl.gov/software/resfen](http://windows.lbl.gov/software/resfen)).