

HVAC DUCT IMPROVEMENTS

BESO Resilience Upgrade Measure

MEASURE INFORMATION

Credits: 2

Description:

In houses with forced-air heating and cooling systems, ducts are used to distribute conditioned air throughout the house. In a typical house, about 20 to 30 percent of the air that moves through the duct system is lost due to leaks, holes, and poorly connected ducts. The result is higher utility bills and difficulty keeping the house comfortable, no matter how the thermostat is set.



If your ducts are in good condition but leaky, sealing and insulating them — especially in attics, crawlspaces, or garages — can reduce energy loss and help maintain stable indoor temperatures. Insulation is particularly important when ducts are located in unconditioned spaces, where temperature swings are more extreme.

If your ductwork is damaged, poorly sized, or beyond repair, replacing it may be the better long-term solution. Upgrading ducts ensures your HVAC system can deliver air evenly throughout the home without wasting energy. Duct improvements are especially beneficial when paired with a heat pump HVAC system, ensuring the entire system runs efficiently from the start.

Installation Criteria:

Seal and insulate **OR** replace ductwork to reduce air leaks and improve HVAC efficiency. Sealing and insulation are suitable for ducts in fair condition. Replace ducts if they are damaged, poorly sized, or beyond repair.

Required Verification Documentation:

- Permit + approved final inspection – *Include “for BESO compliance” in the scope of work section of your building permit application.*
- Contractor invoice with description of duct improvements

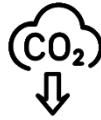
Benefits:



Decrease
Utility Bills



Improve
Comfort



Reduce
Emissions

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Permitting Resources:

- For information about the permit process, including permit types and requirements, visit the [City's permitting webpage](#). If you're new to the process or have questions, you can also [schedule an appointment with a permit specialist](#) for personalized guidance.

Duct Sealing with ENERGY STAR:

- Check out the EPA's [Duct Sealing Fact Sheet](#).

Rebates and Incentives:

- BayREN's [Efficiency and Sustainable Energy \(EASE\) Home Program](#) helps income-eligible residents make energy upgrades that improve health and home comfort. Check the program website to see if you qualify.