



Improving the energy efficiency of a newer home

Situation

- Recently built chilly, and drafty home with uneven temperatures from room to room

Solutions

- Aggressive air sealing of rim joists, electric outlets, ducts, and openings
- Added insulation to attic and garage

Benefits

- More comfortable rooms, achieved with lower thermostat settings
- Significant savings on energy bills
- Planned strategy to implement additional upgrades
- Access to financing for upgrades



Alan Jones

When Alan Jones bought a recently built home, he assumed that he wouldn't have to deal with the discomfort of chilly drafts and wide temperature swings from room to room. But he learned that even modern homes constructed to recent building codes can suffer from drafts and uneven temperatures.

During the first winter in their home, Alan and Valencia Jones made the unhappy discovery that walking from room to room sometimes felt like walking out of a refrigerator into an oven. "Some rooms were cold, others hot," Alan said. The heating bill was hard to bear, too. They paid about \$1,000 a month to heat the house with liquid propane.

Air leaks from unexpected places

At first, Alan thought he could solve the problem by adding blanket fiberglass insulation. However, when Alan had a home energy assessment, he learned that his house worked as a system and leaked lots of air. So insulation alone wasn't going to reduce overall energy use and costs.

On the positive side, Alan learned that his house was well constructed and the double-hung windows were actually pretty tight. But testing revealed major air leaks in places like the rim joists in the basement, and around several doors, windows and electrical outlets. One of the biggest culprits was a duct leading outside the house, which was never sealed off. All in all, the testing showed the gaps in Alan's house were the equivalent of a window being left open year round.

A plan for immediate action

Alan gave his Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor approval to tackle the air leaks and add insulation to his attic and garage. "You can pick and choose what you want to do based on what you can afford," he said. Now Alan's home is much more comfortable, and his energy bills are under control. He estimates that his monthly heating bill has been cut nearly in half.

Alan is keeping the home assessment report handy for future upgrades. In fact, he's already thinking about his next energy-saving improvement: a solar thermal hot-water heater.

Get started

Visit nyserdera.ny.gov/home or call **1-866-NYSERDA** to learn how you can reduce your energy consumption and costs.

"Our house is a lot more comfortable now."

— Alan Jones, Monticello, NY



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