Case Study

Name:
Ann Marie

Location:
Lancaster, New York

Measures Implemented:
• Improved insulation and air-sealing techniques
• High-efficiency insulated windows and doors
• High-efficiency heating and cooling systems with well-sealed duct systems
• ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances, programmable thermostat, and high-efficiency lighting

Background

Ann Marie bought a model home and lives there with her elderly mother. Although her new home has an open floor plan and vaulted ceilings, she is saving on energy bills through high-efficiency systems and windows, high-quality insulation, and other measures. She said she is “pleasantly surprised with the low utility bills.”

“When I walked in, I just fell in love with it,” she said of the 1,950-square-foot home. On the first visit to the model home she would later purchase, she learned details of how a New York ENERGY STAR® Certified Home provides energy savings. “What appealed to me basically was the whole idea of energy savings and a more efficient home,” she said. “You’re saving on energy and making an effort to preserve precious resources for future generations.”

High-quality Construction and Design

Ann Marie’s home is well constructed and insulated to be tightly sealed, keeping heated air inside in winter and cooled air inside in summer while minimizing drafts. High-efficiency heating and cooling systems, windows and doors, appliances, and lighting also keep energy use down.

Happy Homebuyers

Ann Marie finds the combination of aesthetics and energy efficiency offers huge appeal. “It’s an open concept home,” she explained. “You have the higher ceilings — and you’re still realizing savings. I am very impressed with the lower utility bills.” Motivated and challenged by the desire to achieve energy efficiency in the past, she added insulation and other energy-conserving improvements to her former home. In fact, that experience prepared her to eagerly embrace the New York ENERGY STAR Certified Homes concept.
“I had a much older home,” she said. “It was more than a 100 years old. We had it completely renovated, beginning with the installation of fiberglass insulation and new windows.” With this experience behind her, Ann Marie was ready for the more comprehensive New York ENERGY STAR Certified Homes approach, purchasing a model home from her builder.

Any builder would be delighted to find an enthusiastic, energy-aware homebuyer such as Ann Marie. “The energy-aware homebuyer understands that energy is really and truly a controllable part of their expenses,” one builder explained. “You can’t control your taxes; they are what they are. But, you can control how much you spend on energy in a year.”

No matter what happens with the price of energy, residents living in New York ENERGY STAR Certified Homes will be in a better position than many others, throughout their time in the home.

New York ENERGY STAR Certified Homes

Take advantage of the efficiency realized in a New York ENERGY STAR Certified Home today. No matter what the style, size, or price of the house a prospective homebuyer wants to build, it can be built to New York ENERGY STAR Certified Home standards with:

- Improved insulation and air-sealing techniques.
- High-efficiency insulated windows and doors.
- High-efficiency heating and cooling systems with well-sealed duct systems.
- ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances, programmable thermostat, and high-efficiency lighting.

Learn how you can reduce energy consumption and costs.

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