



## HOMEOWNER CASE STUDY

# More Positive Energy from a New York ENERGY STAR® Certified Home Owner

Ann Marie's New York ENERGY STAR® Certified Home in Lancaster, Erie County, was both a case of love at first sight and a welcome way to have a positive impact across the generations by saving energy.



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, high-quality installation of insulation, high-efficiency windows and other measures. She said she is “totally in love” with the house and 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 that same first visit to the model home she would later purchase, she learned details of how the New York ENERGY STAR Homes program provides energy savings. “What appealed to me basically was the whole idea of energy savings and a more efficient home,” she said. “With a New York ENERGY STAR Certified Home, you’re saving on energy and you’re making an effort to preserve precious resources for future generations.”

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Her home is well constructed to be tightly sealed and is well insulated, keeping heated air inside in winter and cooled air inside in summer while minimizing drafts year round. High-efficiency heating and cooling systems, windows and doors, appliances and lighting also keep energy use down, along with attendant costs.

Ann Marie is also impressed with the aesthetics and convenience of her new home. “My mother lives with me,” she said. “And one nice thing I like about the house is the actual design where the master suite is at one end of the house, and the other two bedrooms are at the other end. This is an ideal situation for me, because I have my privacy and my mom has her privacy at the other end of the house.”



She finds the combination of aesthetics and energy efficiency offers huge appeal. “It’s an open concept home,” she explained. “So 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 had added insulation and other energy-conserving improvements to her former home. In fact, that home-owning experience had prepared her to eagerly embrace the New York ENERGY STAR Homes concept.

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“I had a much older home,” she said. “It was over a hundred 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 Homes approach, purchasing a model home from her builder and happy to avoid the delay of a new build.

Any builder would be delighted to find an enthusiastic homebuyer such as Ann Marie. When builders profile the energy-aware homebuyer, she fits the description. “The energy-aware homebuyer understands that energy is really and truly the 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, from the outset and throughout their time in the home.

Take advantage of the New York ENERGY STAR Homes program today, administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). 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 Program 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, and
- ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances and programmable thermostat, and high-efficiency lighting.

Visit [www.nyserdera.ny.gov/NYESHome](http://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/NYESHome) for more information or phone toll free, 1-866-NYSERDA. You can request a complete package of information, including a list of participating New York ENERGY STAR Certified Home builders in your area.

NYSERDA's Low-rise Residential New Construction Programs support the construction and purchase of energy-efficient New York ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, offering recurring savings and greater value to homebuyers. Financial incentives are offered to participating builders who construct single-family homes or multi-unit residential projects that meet the New York ENERGY STAR Certified Homes standard. Income-qualified projects are eligible for additional incentives.

