

WHY HAVING A HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT MATTERS:

It was early fall and I was dreading the coming winter and the cold I would experience again. So...I called EnergizeNY and began the process.

When I spoke to the outreach director, she told me things about the process that I found admirable:

- 1) The center is a nonprofit, local office of NYSERDA, the state's energy agency.
- 2) The home energy assessment is comprehensive and FREE!
- 3) The work would be done by a Building Performance Institute-trained NYS certified contractor.
- 4) My work would not be allowed until proof was given by the contractor that energy usage and costs would be lowered.
- 5) If I wanted an independent energy coach to help me through the process, that would be FREE, as well.

What did I have to lose?

I received my Home Performance Assessment with Energy Star Residential Energy Audit Approval registration number and qualified for the FREE assessment so I began the process. The list of certified energy contractors was long at that time, so I chose one whose office was close to my home, made an appointment and crossed my fingers. Now there are six in the Somers area to choose from, all of whom are accredited and in good standing with NYSERDA's program, which takes the guess work out of finding a reliable contractor for the assessment.

The contractor came with an assistant, a blower door that replaced my front door, an infrared camera, a request for me to close all my windows and doors and trudged all through the house. Of course, I followed along, asking questions galore and two hours later, they were through.

When the colorful, informative report arrived two weeks later, I was excited and shocked at the findings! Of course, I knew that I was uncomfortable in my home, even though I had thermal drapes, carpeted floors and wooly sox to wear. But, imagine my surprise when I saw that one of the areas wasting energy and my hard earned money were the...high-hat lights! The contractor explained that the builder had obviously not insulated around them so the heated air was escaping all the time.

Another discovery was the caulking missing between the floorboards and the wallboards, the wallboards and the ceiling - no wonder I was feeling wind blowing on me while I ate my breakfast!

It did not take me long to decide to have the work done but I decided to have one more check done and called upon the energy coach...because I could. Having that extra check made me much more confident and ready to go ahead with the work.

Pleasant men in masks removed the old fiberglass insulation and replaced it with fire-retardant cellulose and caulked to ensure the most energy efficient home I'd ever had. The workmen were done in a day and a half and left my house clean and much, much warmer - Florida it's not, but right now I'm in bare feet and loving it!

Thank you, Energize and Healthy Home!

Want to learn more about the Energize program? Visit the web site at EnergizeSomers.org. Give us a call at (914) 302-7300 or email laurenb@energizeny.org.