

"...The kitchen was extremely cold in the winter and I would often bake a casserole or a pie just for the excuse of warming things up."



"...This sounds so simple but with the upgrades...we turn on the heat and within 5 minutes we're warm."

– Mary Doud

CASE STUDY: THE DOUDS

ENERGY AUDITS & HOME IMPROVEMENTS with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

George and Mary Doud live in a 100-year-old farmhouse in Northfield, Vermont. Their home has all the charm of a Vermont farmhouse, but with many issues typical of older homes: cold drafts, ice dams on the roof and high energy bills. As winners of the Northfield Home Energy Makeover Contest, the Douds received an energy audit and home energy efficiency improvements.

Scott Gardner from Building Energy, a certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor, conducted an energy audit that showed that the house was poorly insulated and heat was escaping into the attic. Gardner recommended extensive air sealing to limit the flow of air from the home's heated space to the attic and then to the outdoors. Building Energy also installed both loose fill and dense pack cellulose insulation in the attic and spray foam insulation in the bathroom ceiling, attic and basement. As a result, the Douds have made their home more comfortable and durable, and expect to reduce their annual energy costs by nearly 42%.

Incentives are available to help Vermonters complete energy efficiency home improvements through a certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor. To learn more or to find a contractor, call Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or visit www.energysaver.com/homeperformance. Homeowners may also qualify for Federal energy efficiency tax credits.

ENERGY SAVINGS

- Estimated annual energy savings: \$945 (using average fuel price for August 2009)
- Estimated annual fuel savings: 397 gallons of oil
- Estimated reduction in annual energy costs: 42%

BLOWER DOOR RESULTS

- CFM50 results prior to improvements: 4800
- CFM50 results after improvements: 1872
- 61% reduction in air leakage

What is a blower door? A blower door is a diagnostic tool designed to measure the airtightness of buildings and to help locate air leakage sites. The blower door test is conducted during the energy audit and again after the home improvements are completed.

Efficiency Vermont supports a network of Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractors serving Vermont homeowners. These independent contractors are certified by the Building Performance Institute to perform energy audits, diagnose building problems such as moisture, mold, and ice dams, and install the recommended energy efficiency improvements.

Efficiency Vermont

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