

Energy Efficiency Can Keep You Warmer This Winter

As the recent winter weather has reminded us, preparation is everything in winter. Whether it's keeping an eye on the latest weather reports for the Hudson Valley, investing in snow tires to keep your car on the road, or weatherizing your home, a little foresight goes a long way to keeping you warm and safe through the winter months. Looking into your home's energy use now can save you dollars, headaches, and the need to ration your heat in the coldest weeks of the year.

Due to the laws of thermodynamics, warm air that you've paid to heat your home will eventually rise through the dwelling. If your home or apartment isn't air tight or well-insulated, you could be paying to heat your upstairs neighbor's place or sending that warm air straight out of your home, doing more harm than good. In fact, if you tend to see big icicles forming from your roof, that could be a sign that your roof is under-insulated, meaning you might be paying more for heat than you have to and are potentially at risk for water damage.

The good news is your local Community Energy Advisors at Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) can help. Residents all over New York and the Hudson Valley are discovering programs and incentives to help renters and homeowners take a whole-house approach to reducing their energy burden. Most New Yorkers are eligible for a FREE home energy assessment. Seriously! Just contact a Community Energy Advisor to learn how by calling 845-677-8223.

Income-eligible residents can also receive cost-share to make your home more energy efficient to start saving money now. A family of four making less than \$53,484 might be eligible to receive energy efficiency retrofits like air sealing, insulation, weatherizing, and even a new refrigerator/freezer at no cost!

Don't wait until the next polar vortex, Nor'easter, or huge utility bill to do something about your home's energy efficiency. Talk to a Community Energy Advisor about what programs, services, and products are right for you. Call 845-677-8223.

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About CCE Dutchess County: Through quality educational programs, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) builds strong, healthy youth, adults, families and communities while enhancing the economic, social, agricultural and natural resources of Dutchess County and the region. (<https://www.ccedutchess.org>)