

Homeowners Taking A Whole House Review To Energy Savings

Perhaps the unprecedented rise and fall of heating oil prices this past winter has an underlying benefit. Energy savings has gained more attention than ever. Specifically, with regards to homeownership, energy conservation is not only recognized for its environmental benefits but also the resulting reduction in household utility expenses.

“Equipment upgrades, preventive maintenance, system tune-ups, air sealing and proper thermostat settings are amongst the most important time and capital investments Hudson Valley residents will be making this year”, stated Michael Berardi, branch manager of Kosco, the area’s leading home full service home heating and comfort company.

For most area residents Spring is a time to start planning and prioritizing home repairs, remodeling and property chores. New and at the top of the list for 2009 is energy saving tasks. “We have seen a noticeable increase in the number of inquiries for our highly efficient heating systems. Homeowners are looking at creating savings through efficiency”, says Berardi.

The “Whole House Approach” to energy savings isn’t simply about the price per gallon paid on heating fuel. It takes into consideration both costs and reducing energy consumption. Although we really have little influence over fluctuating world oil prices, we can all take measures to improve efficiencies and reduce utility expenditures.

According to the ENERGY STAR, Web site (www.energystar.gov), almost half of your home’s annual energy bill goes to heating and cooling the house. And when you combine all the factors described below, you can lower heating and cooling bills by 20% to 50% – with the added benefit of reducing environmental emissions.

The New York Oil Heating Association explains that homeowners upgrading their current boiler or furnace can reduce bills by up to 30% or

more. They'll also help the environment, because the new system will produce near-zero emissions and will run more efficiently. "Even a fifteen percent improvement in efficiency can result in a \$500.00 annual savings for many homeowners in the Hudson Valley" explained Berardi of Kosco.

Having annual preventive maintenance on your boiler or furnace (better known as a tune-up) during the spring will ensure that it is running at peak efficiency and, according to the National Oil Heat Research Alliance, systems that have not been tuned regularly may have significant savings, while systems that have not been tuned in the last couple of years may save 3%.

The Department of Energy estimates that a homeowner can save approximately 10% per year on heating and cooling costs by setting temperatures back 5% of the comfort level eight hours each day. When properly used, a programmable thermostat can reduce annual energy bills by \$100. So your initial investment is paid back within months.

Taking a Whole House Approach to produce energy efficiencies and usage reduction can result in savings that exceed \$600.00 annually.

For further information about Kosco or to request a heating system analysis contact Mike Berardi at Kosco 845-331-0770, www.koscocomfort.com

