



Reducing Energy Costs!

Since Fall 2005, Heating Solutions has helped residents to assess their current energy use and to learn how they might reduce their energy costs. Since then, **almost 1000 households have assessed their home energy use** through a survey filled out at community events, energy workshops, and human service agencies. Community members have also brought the survey form door-to-door in their neighborhoods. The form is a great source of information on how Tompkins County residents are saving energy, what energy-saving steps they would like to take, and what steps they would like to learn more about (*turn to page three to see the survey*).



This October 28th, **150 volunteers with Cornell's "Into the Streets" project** helped distribute the survey and other energy-saving information to households in Caroline, Enfield, Lansing, and downtown Ithaca. The student volunteers were hosted by local community groups, including **Energy Independent Caroline, the Enfield Community Council, Lansing Energy Groups, and Cornell Cooperative Extension**. Over the three hour project, student and community volunteers **visited more than 1200 households**, where they shared energy saving information and our home assessment survey. **220 surveys** were filled out and returned to the volunteers on the spot. This issue of Community Currents focuses on **the results found in Ithaca and Caroline**, the communities with the highest number of responses on that date.

Ithaca

118 surveys were collected in the Northside, Southside, and Fall Creek neighborhoods of Ithaca. Volunteers visited an estimated 630 households, and gave information on energy reduction to an estimated 210. A range of possible savings is associated with each energy saving step. To calculate the conservative averages below, the lowest possible savings was used.

Ithaca households that implemented energy saving steps save an average of \$448 annually.

Ithaca residents that indicated that they will implement further energy saving steps could additionally save an average of \$222 annually.

Providing the assistance asked for by Ithaca residents could help them to further save an average of \$292 annually.

Caroline

64 surveys were collected in Caroline. Volunteers visited an estimated 345 households, and gave information on energy reduction to an estimated 114. A range of possible savings is associated with each energy saving step. To calculate the conservative averages below, the lowest possible savings was used.

Caroline households that implemented energy saving steps save an average of \$447 annually.

Caroline residents that indicated that they will implement further energy saving steps could additionally save an average of \$213 annually.

Providing the assistance asked for by Caroline residents could help them to further save an average of \$155 annually.



What are Tompkins County residents doing to reduce energy costs?

The survey form is a great source of information on how Tompkins County residents are saving energy, what energy-saving steps they would like to take, and what steps they would like to learn more about. The survey lists sixteen steps that households can take to reduce heating costs, hot water costs, and electric bills. Respondents can check “In process/completed”, “Will do”, or “Want to do it! Here’s the kind of help I need:” for each step (see *the survey itself on the next page*). The most common responses from 182 Caroline and Ithaca surveys were:

What steps have you already taken to lower your energy use and costs?

Most frequent response: Lower thermostat or install setback thermostat

Other frequent responses: Seal off & turn down heat in unused rooms; Wash clothes in cold water instead of warm



What steps will you take to lower your energy use and costs?

Most frequent response popular: Replace 5 light bulbs with CFLs

Other frequent responses: Insulate Hot Water Heater; Reduce television use by 6 hours/day; Replace outdoor halogen lights with 65 watt CFL

I want to do it and would like help:

Most frequent response: Add insulation

Other frequent responses: Install hot water heater timer

CONGRATULATIONS to the three winners of our Fall 2006 drawing, each of whom will receive \$100 worth of energy saving products to use in their home!

Hallie Magden, Caroline, NY
Sharon Austic, Enfield, NY
Tim Nolan, Ithaca, NY



For homes and apartments!

The below survey has been used by almost 1000 Tompkins County residents to assess their home energy savings.

Fill it out yourself to see how much YOU might save!

See it online at <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/energy/>

How Much Can You Save On Energy Costs?

To help Cooperative Extension plan programs that address the most immediate needs of Tompkins County residents, please indicate below which of the following energy (and money) saving practices you now use, or plan to use, in your own home.

ENERGY AND MONEY SAVING TIPS	Possible Savings	In Process/ Completed	Will Do	Want to do it! Here's the kind of help I need:
REDUCE YOUR HEATING COSTS				
Lower Thermostat or Install Setback Thermostat (<i>Note: Installing setback thermostat may require professional assistance*</i>)	\$100-\$600/year			
Reduce Air Infiltration: Plug Leaks in Attic	\$30-\$75/yr			
Replace Filters in Forced Air Heating Systems	\$30-\$75/yr			
Seal Off & Turn Down Heat in Unused Rooms	\$60-\$150/yr			
Add Insulation (<i>Requires professional installation*</i>)	\$120-\$500/yr			
REDUCE YOUR HOT WATER COSTS				
Reduce Temperature of Hot Water to 120 degrees	\$30-\$50/yr			
Install High Efficiency Shower Heads	\$20/person/yr			
Wash Clothes in Cold Water instead of Warm	\$30-\$100/yr			
Insulate Hot Water Heater	\$30/yr			
Install Hot Water Heater Timer - Electric Hot Water Heaters Only (<i>Requires an Electrician*</i>)	\$150/yr			
REDUCE YOUR ELECTRIC BILL				
Reduce Electric Space Heater Use by 6 hours/day	\$100-200/yr			
Replace 5 Light Bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Bulbs	\$35-\$40/yr			
Reduce Computer Use by 6 hours/day	\$78/yr			
Reduce Television Use by 6 hours/day	\$34/yr			
Extra Refrigerator? Turn it off	\$120-\$150/yr			
Replace outdoor halogen lights with 65 watt CFL	\$46/year			

*Cornell Cooperative Extension is not associated with any home improvement business; no salesperson will call.

Everyone learns more quickly when they hear things from their friends or family. **You can help others save money in their own homes this winter. Are you interested in sharing information with others...:**

- in your workplace/office in your church
 in your neighborhood in a club / team / league / other

Enter our Drawing to Win \$100 worth of Energy-Saving Products:

Name: _____ Owner _____ Renter _____
 Street Address: _____
 Town or City _____ Zip _____
 Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Interested in learning more about "free" weatherization services for eligible low income households?
 Call Merri Nickerson at Tompkins Community Action, 273-8816, ext. 144

Return to: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County • 615 Willow Avenue • Ithaca NY 14850-3555