



**E-Conservation**  
power to control what you spend

# Energy Efficiency Advisor

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**  
Empowering People - Providing Solutions

Volume 1, Issue 1, March 2015

## North Carolina Homeowners Get Tuned In to Energy Efficiency

The latest workshops hosted by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension's E-Conservation Program saw droves of homeowners turn out in Durham on Jan. 27 and Pittsboro on Feb. 28 to learn the latest energy efficiency strategies to apply in their homes.

Both events educated residents about no-cost and low-cost ways to decrease energy usage and demonstrated how to use products such as caulking, programmable thermostats and foam insulation. Family & Consumer Science Extensive Agent Deborah McGiffin led the first workshop while E-Conservation Director Laura Langham took charge of the Pittsboro event.



Participants were also given a free energy kit for immediate use of energy products in their homes. The kit included a compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb and a low-flow showerhead.

"I enjoyed how informative and participatory the workshop was," said Linda Warren, a Durham resident who attended the Jan. 27 event. "I learned a lot from the questions of other participants and the presenter's knowledge and ability to answer those questions helped a lot as well."

E-Conservation workshops encourage residents to adopt energy-efficient behaviors and offer enrollment in a program that provides a home energy assessment and low-cost retrofit services. For more information and qualification requirements, visit our [website](#).

If you weren't able to attend a workshop, there will be additional opportunities this year. See below for upcoming events:

### Upcoming Workshop Events

**Tuesday, March 24**

Kathleen Clay Edwards Library  
1420 Price Park Dr. Greensboro, N.C. 27410  
6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

### Catch Us on Social Media!

Following us on our social media platforms will allow you the quickest updates on what's going on, such as workshop event announcements, release of homeowner resources and interesting energy news. Not to mention, it allows you to take an active role in our discussions and forums!



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Pinterest](#)

Also be sure to visit our [website](#)!

### Our First of Many Newsletters

Congratulations on being one of the original recipients of the *Energy Efficiency Advisor*! We hope that there will be many more to come as we continue to work towards improving the ecological resilience of our state through energy education and retrofit services.

If you know of any interesting energy stories or events happening in your area, we'd love to hear from you! Also, show us your new energy habits at work! Please send any content to Daniel Pate at [cdpate@ncsu.edu](mailto:cdpate@ncsu.edu) for consideration of inclusion in our next issue.

## Energy Tax Credits for Home Improvements – Improve Your Home AND Your Utility Bills



Plan ahead now for the 2015 tax season by knowing which home improvements qualify for [energy tax credits](#). Home improvements that fall under the Non-Business Energy Property Credit and the Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit can be applied towards certain energy property expenditures to help make energy-saving [retrofits](#) more affordable for homeowners

## Save Even More By Taking Advantage of Rebates!

There's even more financial incentive to installing energy-efficient equipment than just lower utility bills. Did you know that the state and utility companies offer rebates for some energy saving measures in your home? Check out the offers below to see how you can qualify:

- [North Carolina Utility Company and State Rebates](#)
- [PSNC](#): Rebates available for efficient natural gas water heaters
- [Duke Progress](#): Provides rebates for many types improvements from attic insulation upgrades to window air conditioning units
- [Piedmont Natural Gas](#): Rebates available for furnaces and water heaters



## Winter = Maximum Energy Usage



While we long for spring to finally arrive, there's still plenty of winter left to endure. So now is a great time to explore the North Carolina Cooperative Extension's (NCCE) online resources to ensure your home remains energy efficient during these cold and unpredictable winter months.

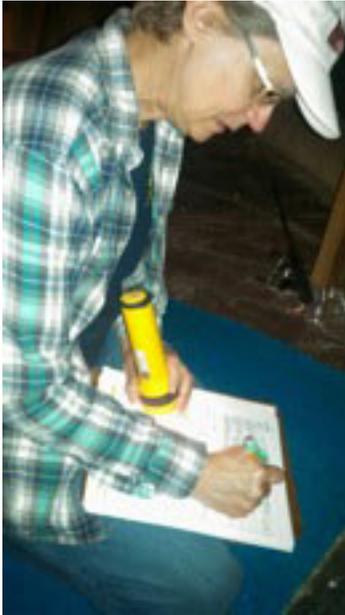
Our resources include everything from do-it-yourself guides to installation videos. Whether you're an energy spring chicken or a seasoned professional, you can follow these easy home energy improvement activities as weatherstripping, insulating, detecting air leaks and much, much more! (<http://energy.ces.ncsu.edu/>). You can also find ways to improve your individual actions to reduce energy use.

Can't find what you want to learn? [Let us know!](#) We want to help you increase your home's comfort, reduce energy and SAVE money!

"The E-Conservation workshop helped us understand how our home uses energy and gave us great ideas of how to use less. Participating in this program was a great experience and we are now spending much less on our heating bill."

*Jennifer Limbaugh,  
Home Assessment and Energy Retrofit  
Program participant,  
Greensboro, N.C.*

## 2014: A Great Year For E-Conservation



Last year, E-Conservation held 79 energy workshops that were attended by 2,162 residents throughout North Carolina. Surveys showed that these events encouraged homeowners to use the products given to them by the workshop and also take proactive measures to increase energy efficiency, including purchasing additional products and hiring professionals to perform home retrofits.

A total of 126 homes received weatherization assessments and energy efficiency retrofits through the program and another 100+ will receive these services in the winter and spring of 2015. The services include \$600 worth of improvements consisting of such actions as air sealing, attic access insulation, water heater insulation and dryer vent cleanings.

You can view the entire [two-page accomplishment report](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/?p=336711) on our website (<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/?p=336711>) that elaborates more on the type of retrofit actions performed and savings that homeowners acquired from installing workshop materials.