

renewable energy Long Island



2012 Energy Efficient Homes Special!

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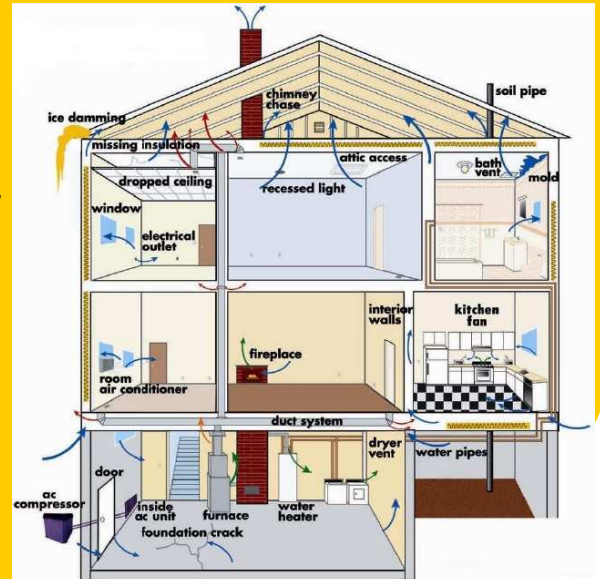
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My Free Home Energy Audit, By Program Coordinator Saskia Madlener

Lowering the energy use and increasing the efficiency of buildings is the first and most important step towards sustainability. In the U.S., buildings consume close to 40% of our total energy and contribute 38% of the carbon dioxide emissions, the primary greenhouse gas. Increasing building efficiency is technically the simplest step to take, if the will to do it is there.

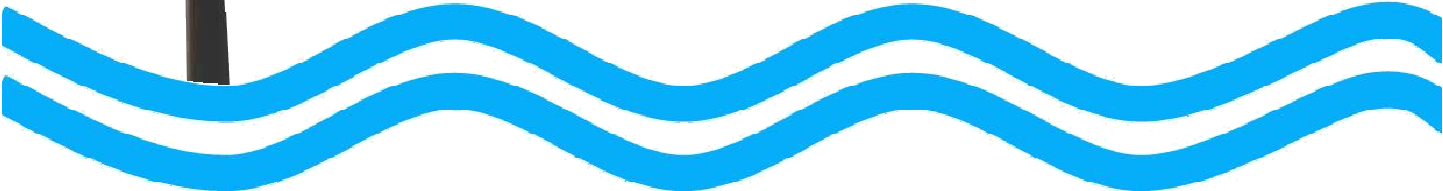
Last fall I decided to take advantage of the Long Island Green Homes (LIGH) program and got a free Comprehensive Home Assessment conducted on my home in East Hampton. This program is primarily funded by the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA), and now includes seven Long Island municipalities, though all Long Island residents are currently eligible for funding and on-bill financing, which is described in the next article.



Our home is a relatively new construction, built in the mid-90's, and I doubted there would be much to do by way of improving insulation, plugging air leaks, and replacing boilers, furnaces, and appliances. I was wrong. Many homes are built with very low insulation and leakage standards, to the point where homes are better at heating the outdoors than the inside!

The process of getting a free or reduced-cost energy audit is so simple and intuitive it would be silly to pass it up. Simply fill out a single-page application on NYSERDA's Home Performance site [here](#) and have a summary of the annual oil heating and electric usage of your home handy (call your provider and they will send it along), email or mail your application to NYSERDA, wait for your letter of approval, and start searching for Building Performance Institute accredited contractors in your area [here](#). The audit takes a couple of hours and can be conducted with or without your presence. Depending on your contractor you will receive a report within a few weeks and you can start making the recommended repairs or amendments to your home, with great low interest financing and billing options!

According to our home's assessment most of our energy is being lost through the attic. Improving the attic's insulation will cost us \$4,488 up front and can be financed at a very low rate



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through LIPA, NYSERDA, and other organizations. However the payback is fast, just 6.3 years with an annual heating savings of \$709. Because heat rises, it is important to keep a well insulated and sealed attic. Furthermore, it is the cheapest area in the home to amend as the insulation is exposed. We have also been advised to increase the insulation in our basement ceiling and to consider replacing our oil burner with an Energy Star model in the future.



Cellulose Insulation

ATTIC RESULTS

Existing

One of your attic flats with an area of 1120 sq.ft. has 8" of single fiberglass batting insulation in poor condition. The effective R-Value for this surface is 8.9.

Proposal

By installing 6" of blown fiberglass on top of the existing insulation, the resulting effective R-Value will be 43.2.

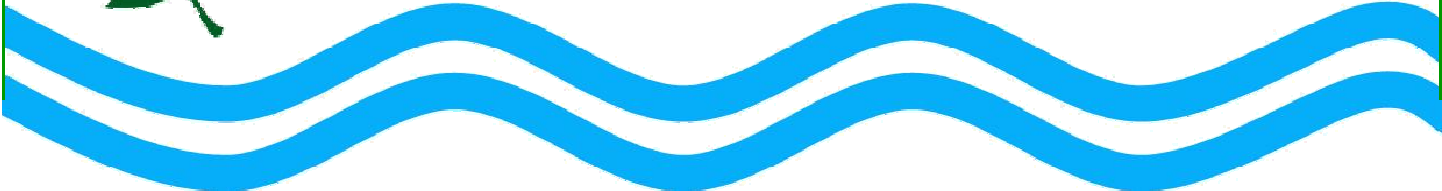
At least one attic area requires ventilation. Please see below for any recommended ventilation.

A look at our attic results, 6" of added insulation will give us an R-Value of 43.2!

It is amazing when you begin to look at your home's problems. Improper insulation and venting cause heating and cooling systems to work harder than they should, leading to high monthly utility bills. It also leads to ice damming on the roof, damp ceilings and walls where mildew will develop, peeling paint, and unwanted drafts. Most homes have the equivalent of a 3' x 3' hole in the exterior wall where air flows in and out with no control, that's a huge unwanted hole! Low efficiency rating heating and cooling systems may be costing you a lot more than you realize, so it is important to keep these systems serviced, clean, and well-wired, and your auditor can tell you if you would benefit financially from a new system.

There are simple DIY steps you can take as well, such as to weather-strip and caulk your doors and windows, especially in older structures. Look at your heating ducts or pipes where they enter the walls and make sure the gaps are well sealed. Appliance replacement can be as simple as switching to Energy Star qualified lighting such as LEDs and CFLs, to washing machines that use 60% less energy and 36% less water.

According to LIGH, 75% of Long Island homeowners have already invested in more insulation for their homes, and now it is even easier to do so with on-bill financing through LIPA. We are at a great advantage here on Long Island and if you believe in investing in the future of both your home and the environment (not to mention the energy savings down the road!), you should get started by checking out the [LIGH site!](#)



2012 Energy Efficient Homes Special!

On-Bill Financing Now Available for Home Energy Efficiency Projects on Long Island

Contact the [Long Island Green Homes](#) program to get your free or reduced cost home energy audit. The audits are conducted by trained and approved home energy professionals, and are funded by the New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

After the audit is complete, you will get:

- A report that lets you know how your home can be more efficient
- Recommendations on cost effective upgrades
- Energy-saving measures installed by program-approved, accredited contractors
- Improvements to your home that will pay for themselves through lower energy bills
- Available low-cost financing from NYSERDA
- No out-of-pocket expenses



An inefficient home wastes energy and costs you money

Over 1,000 Long Island homeowners have already gotten energy audits through the Long Island Green Homes program, which started in the summer of 2011.

Making your home more energy efficient just got even easier

Starting January 30, 2012, homeowners who finance projects through NYSERDA will have the option to use “On-Bill” financing to make loan payments via their LIPA electric bill. NYSERDA serves as the “bank,” and LIPA serves as the collector, to make payments more convenient and less costly for your new heating and cooling equipment, insulation, and air sealing.

Why use on-bill financing?

- It saves money! If you use on-bill financing, the interest rate is just 2.99% up to \$25,000*
- Savings from the very start! Loan payments are structured to be lower than your monthly savings in energy bills, so you save money right from the start. If energy costs continue to rise, you save even more.
- No payments are due until June 2012
- It’s convenient! No separate bill — your loan payment appears on your LIPA bill
- It’s transferrable! If you sell your home, the loan can be transferred to the new owner. There is no reason to put it off.

This is a NY State program, available to all homeowners. If you live in the towns of Babylon, Brookhaven, Islip, Huntington, North Hempstead, Smithtown or Southampton, your town has staff on hand to help guide you to the right program for you and assist you in applying. **Get started today by [clicking here!](#)**

Long Island Green Homes is a program administered locally by the Community Development Corporation, the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College, and 7 townships on Long Island. The program is available to all Long Islanders. [16 community partners](#) including environmental groups, academic institutions, civics and other local organizations reaching over 100,000 Long Islanders are helping promote this program.



* A homeowner can finance up to \$25,000 if the payback period (the amount of time it takes for the work to “pay for itself” in savings) is 15 years or less. If the payback period is longer than 15 years, the maximum amount eligible for financing is \$13,000. See nyserd.ny.gov/on-bill for other Frequently Asked Questions.

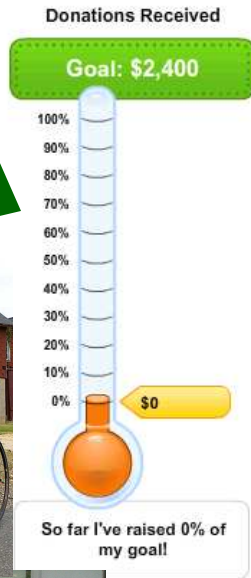
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Climate Ride NYC-DC 2012
May 19 - 23, 2012 | 5 Days | 300 Miles

What's wrong with this picture?!



[LEARN MORE HERE!](#)



RESOURCES

reLI Homepage:
www.RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org

reLI Individual Membership & Donations:
RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org/join.cfm

Offshore Wind Initiative:
WindWorks4LI.org
WindWorks4NY.org

reLI Calendar of Events:
RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org/calendar.cfm

Long Island GreenGuide
LIGreenGuide.org

Long Island Green Homes:
<http://longislandgreenhomes.org/>

Solar Calculator & Contractors:
SunshinIsFree.org

reLI on Facebook:
[Facebook/RenewableEnergyLongIsland](https://Facebook.com/RenewableEnergyLongIsland)

reLI Professional Membership:
renewableenergylongisland.org/membershipinfo.cfm

reLI on Twitter: [@LIGreenGuide](https://twitter.com/LIGreenGuide)



Clean Energy - Safe Environment - Healthy Planet

renewable energy
Long Island

62 Newtown Lane, Suite 103
East Hampton, NY 11937

info@RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org
www.RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org