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Energy analysis can save money

AUGUST 30, 2009

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The economy and the environment are often at odds. But an initiative sponsored by the state-sponsored Clean Energy Program is good for both the economy and the environment.

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For only \$125, New Jersey homeowners can have their entire home evaluated for energy efficiency. That's a small price to pay for thousands of dollars in potential savings in the long run.

Through the Home Energy Analysis program, homeowners can learn how to make their dwellings more efficient and save up to 30 percent on energy costs. The program even offers rebates on Energy Star products including a \$20 rebate on an Energy Star air conditioner and a \$25 rebate on an Energy Star dehumidifier.

During the audit, trained and certified technicians will help identify which appliances use the most energy, perform a health and safety check monitoring of carbon monoxide levels and moisture and indoor air quality. In addition, these energy experts will assess insulation levels, as well as check heating and cooling system efficiency, domestic hot water system efficiency and lighting.

A contractor participating in the program will perform air sealing work completely funded by the program. This will help measure the air tightness of a home to identify any air leakage. Afterward, more extensive home improvements can be performed to increase energy efficiency.

Making a home more energy-efficient is good for the environment. But it's also good for the economy.

Let's face it: In these tough economic times, contractors need work now more than ever.

By investing in your home's efficiency, you'll not only save money and help the environment, but you'll put hard-working tradesman back to work and create a greater demand for durable goods in New Jersey.

As a member of the New Jersey Building Materials Dealers Association, I urge you to learn more at www.njcleanenergy.com.

By JACK CORTESE
 Branchburg



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