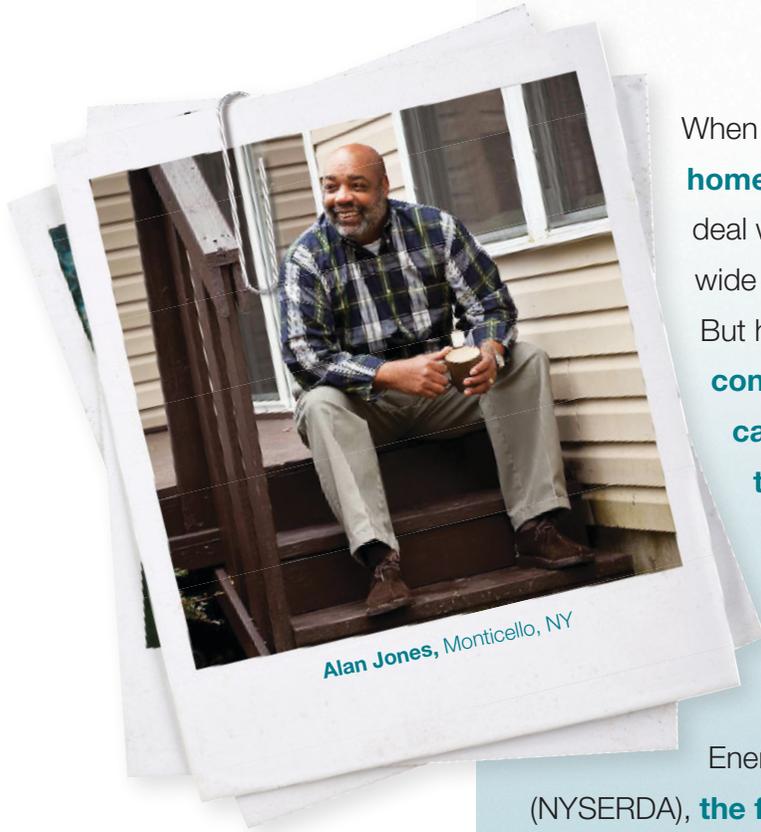


A newer home, made energy efficient



When **Alan Jones bought a recently built home**, he assumed that he wouldn't have to deal with the discomfort of chilly drafts and wide temperature swings from room to room. But he learned that **even modern homes constructed to recent building codes can suffer from drafts and uneven temperatures.**

At first, Alan thought he could solve the problem by adding blanket fiberglass insulation. However, when he came across the website for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), **the free or reduced-cost comprehensive home energy assessment caught his eye.**

Alan had an assessment performed and learned that his house leaked air—lots of it. **He implemented several of the recommendations** made by his participating Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® contractor. Now Alan's home is much more comfortable, and he's saving money every month on energy costs. **Alan estimates that his heating bill has been cut nearly in half.**

Turn over for more



Walking out of a refrigerator into an oven. During the first winter in their home in Monticello, NY, Alan and Valencia Jones made the unhappy discovery that walking from room to room sometimes felt like walking out of a refrigerator into an oven. **“Some rooms were cold, others hot,” Alan said. “Even though we had two separate thermostat zones to control temperatures, the whole place was unevenly heated.”**

The heating bill was hard to bear, too: They paid about \$1,000 a month to heat the house with liquid propane. Alan was planning to install additional insulation when he found NYSERDA’s website and learned about the comprehensive home energy assessment and Home Performance with ENERGY STAR.

Air leaks from expected—and unexpected—places. Alan had his home assessed, and as it turned out, inadequate insulation was just one factor on a long list of the problems affecting his comfort and energy costs. On the positive side, Alan learned that his house was well constructed and the double-hung windows were actually pretty tight. **But testing revealed several trouble spots with major air leaks—places like the rim joists in the basement, and around several doors, windows and electrical outlets.**

One of the biggest culprits was a duct leading outside the house, which was never sealed off. All in all, the testing showed **the gaps in Alan’s house were the equivalent of a window being left open year round.**

A plan for immediate action—and for the future. Alan gave his Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor approval to tackle the air leaks and add insulation to his attic and garage. Today his home is much more comfortable and his energy bills are under control. Easy access to low-interest financing through Green Jobs — Green NY helped Alan with his budgeting, too. “You can pick and choose what you want to do based on what you can afford,” he said.

Alan is keeping the home assessment report handy for future upgrades. In fact, he’s already thinking about his next energy-saving improvement: a solar thermal water heater.

Situation

- Recently built home
- Chilly, drafty rooms
- Uneven temperatures from room to room

Solutions

- Aggressive air sealing of rim joists, electric outlets, ducts and openings
- Added insulation to attic and garage

Benefits

- More comfortable rooms, achieved with lower thermostat settings
- Significant savings on energy bills
- Planned strategy to implement additional upgrades
- Low-interest financing for upgrades
- 10 percent cashback payment on eligible measures

*“Our house is a lot more comfortable now.
More people should take advantage of this program.”*
— Alan Jones, Monticello, NY

► **Opportunity’s knocking!**
Call 1-866-NYSERDA or visit nyserdera.ny.gov/home-performance



About NYSERDA’s Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

NYSERDA’s Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program offers homeowners a comprehensive, whole-house approach to improving energy efficiency and home comfort while saving money. Energy assessments and upgrades are conducted by a participating Home Performance contractor accredited by the Building Performance Institute (BPI). Income-qualified homeowners are eligible for additional incentives to make energy improvements.



Participate in Home Performance with ENERGY STAR and take advantage of funding for comprehensive home energy assessments and low-cost financing for energy upgrades through Green Jobs – Green NY. Green Jobs – Green NY is a statewide effort to strengthen our communities through energy efficiency. It enables New Yorkers to make a significant difference in our homes, businesses and neighborhoods —making them more comfortable, more sustainable, and more economically sound. Green Jobs – Green NY is administered by NYSERDA and made available by the Green Jobs – Green New York Act of 2009.

