

August - September 2011 News and Events

Home Energy Makeover Contest Winner: Brown Family Close-Up

Meet Lisa Brown, a real estate professional who just completed the \$10,000 Energy Upgrade she won for her 1,700 square foot home. Built in 1951, the home was costing Ms. Brown approximately \$2,465 a year for electricity and gas. In an effort to reduce her bills and improve the home's appearance, she recently replaced all of the windows. But the bills didn't decrease. Why?

Contest sponsor Building Doctors conducted a comprehensive home energy assessment that included a blower door test, duct leakage test, carbon monoxide test, and infrared imaging. They determined that the home had an outdated furnace; leaky ducts; little to no insulation in the attic, walls or crawl space; and more.

By adding insulation and air sealing, Ms. Brown was able to achieve 20% energy savings and would have qualified for a \$4,000 incentive through Energy Upgrade California if she had paid for the job. Her total out-of-pocket costs would have been \$749—very cost-effective! Additional upgrades projected to achieve over 50% energy savings in the home included a new heating and cooling system, water heater upgrade, shower valve upgrades and more.

The upgrades Ms. Brown made to her home through the Energy Upgrade California program also earned her a majority of the 25 points needed for the GreenPoint Rated Elements Label.

Want to learn more? Check out the Brown's case study and home energy assessment on the [Home Energy Makeover Contest Winners website](#).

Or attend one of the upcoming open houses/block parties featuring completed home energy upgrades—every weekend, beginning Saturday, September 10.

Thank you to Ms. Brown's Makeover sponsors: Building Doctors, Caroma, EnTouch Controls, Kohler, Lennox, Panasonic, Pentair Water, Rheem, and Harding Construction & Sustainable Solutions.

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