



Empowering you to make smart energy choices

HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONSSM

ENERGY EFFICIENCY CASE STUDY: VERONICA CROOK

The Home Energy Solutions (HES) program is available to all Connecticut residents. Specialists will perform an energy assessment, make on-the-spot improvements to make your home weather-tight, replace incandescent light bulbs with more energy-saving bulbs and provide money-saving rebates for additional upgrades. This program is one of several innovative solutions offered by Energize Connecticut and administered by Connecticut's utility companies.

To find energy solutions for your home, call 877-WISE-USE (877-947-3873) or visit EnergizeCT.com

Energize Connecticut and Eversource helped this household:

- Save electricity:
 - 2,975 kilowatt-hours (annually)
 - 21,656 kilowatt-hours (lifetime)
- Save money:
 - \$565 (annually)
 - \$4,115 (lifetime)

(All savings shown are estimates, based on current conditions and rates.)

The electricity saved over this project's lifetime is equivalent to:

- 10 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions avoided, or
- 5 tons of coal not burned, or
- Powering three average homes with electricity for a year.



Background

Eversource customer Veronica Crook is an 81-year-old widow who has been living in her two-story Litchfield condominium for over a decade. The unit, which she owns, consists of a two-bedroom townhouse complete with an attic, basement and family room and is part of a 23-year-old complex that is heated by electricity.

The Challenge

After the death of Mrs. Crook's husband, the responsibility of maintaining the premises fell entirely on her. "I was concerned about the amount I was spending on electricity," she said. She began to look for various ways to bring down her energy costs. "One day, I decided to read the little leaflet enclosed in my electric bill," she recalled. That's when she first learned about the Home Energy Solutions (HES) program.

The Solution

Upon receiving her call, Eversource connected her with an authorized HES program contractor to schedule the service. "They set up an appointment at my convenience," she noted, "and they were here at 12:30 on the dot – exactly when they said they'd be." The two technicians stayed for several hours, first assessing where potential energy-saving measures could be made and then performing a number of the indicated improvements themselves. Finally, they sat down with her to explain everything they had done and suggested ways she could achieve further savings.

Weatherization: Improves Heating and Cooling Efficiency

Keeping as much conditioned air (heated or cooled) as possible inside a home is the key to reducing home energy consumption. The HES energy experts performed a blower door test to determine the cubic feet of air per minute (CFM) flowing through the residence. This is done by placing a tarp over the front door with a built-in industrial fan to depressurize the home, reversing the airflow and enabling the technicians to find the sources of air leaks and drafts with the aid of a smoke stick. As a result, the technicians performed air-sealing measures that included caulking and sealing around critical leaks, installing door sweeps in Mrs. Crook's partially finished basement to block the flow of cold air, and putting caps on unused electrical outlets in exterior walls. They also checked the fireplace vent to make sure it was properly closed.

Efficient Use of Hot Water

Additionally, the HES technicians installed water-saving measures that included low-flow faucet aerators and shower heads to reduce the amount of water used and thus the amount of energy required for water heating. "I love those new shower heads," Mrs. Crook said after having had time to test the improvements. "It's actually a much better flow," she noted. "The shower is very comfortable, and I'm quite happy with it." The crew also reset the hot water heater thermostat to an optimum temperature and installed insulation on the hot water pipe, reducing energy use even more.

Energy-Efficient Lighting

Finally, the technicians replaced Mrs. Crook's old incandescent light bulbs with new energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), which, in her opinion, was "just wonderful." That's because at 81 she often found it difficult to replace bulbs that were recessed. The new CFLs, however, can last up to 10 times longer than incandescent light bulbs and use up to 75 percent less energy.

Other improvements suggested to the homeowner (in addition to having a new hot water heater installed, which she had already planned to do), included installing additional insulation in parts of the attic. The technicians left her with an Energize Connecticut insulation rebate.

Benefits

- Program services valued at an average of \$1000 – available to eligible customers for a small fee, depending on how you heat your home.*
 - Energy experts use instrument-guided technology to identify critical air leaks and drafts.
 - On-the-spot professional caulking, sealing and hot water pipe insulation.
 - Energy-saving light bulbs included.
 - Financing is available for residents interested in additional energy-efficient improvements, including insulation and appliance upgrades.
 - Exclusive ENERGY STAR® appliance rebates.
 - Services result in monthly, year-round energy savings.
- * Subject to change and funding availability.

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