



# Giving thanks for warmer rooms and lower energy bills

## Situation

- Cold, drafty rooms with lath and plaster walls, no insulation, and high energy costs

## Solutions

- New high-efficiency furnace with programmable thermostat
- Energy-saving hot water heater
- Blown-in cellulose wall insulation
- Expandable foam insulation around rim joist in basement
- Weather stripping and caulking around doors and windows

## Benefits

- Increased comfort and warmth — air leakage reduced by 61%
- Lower energy bills with estimated energy savings of at least \$54 per month
- No more icicles



Anna Napoleon

Gathering around the table at Thanksgiving, Anna Napoleon’s family gave thanks for good food, good company, and the cozy home in which they were celebrating. “My daughter used to turn the heat up to 70, because it was always cold,” Anna explained. “Now I don’t turn the thermostat past 65.”

For more than 50 years, Anna had dealt with drafts in her vintage 1850s home. When her furnace started acting up, her Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® contractor had a different solution in mind than simply replacing equipment. The contractor helped her make her home more energy efficient by providing a home energy assessment and recommending upgrades.

## The top-to-bottom solution

Although Anna’s three-bedroom, 1850s Victorian home is modest in size, she was spending an excessive amount of money to heat it each winter — and still it was always cold. As is common in structures of its era, the house was built with hollow walls lined with lath and plaster on the inside. Poorly sealed windows and doors compounded the problem, letting heat leak out, and drafts blow in.

After completing the assessment, the contractor recommended replacing the furnace and the hot water heater, installing insulation throughout the house, caulking windows and weatherstripping doors. The goal was to reduce air leakage, the primary culprit behind Anna’s cold rooms and costly heating bills.

## Lower energy bills and greater warmth

Today, Anna’s home is toastier than it’s ever been. The drafts in Anna’s home are gone because the improvements cut air leakage by 61 percent. “The insulation has made such a difference. And it was done at a real savings to me,” she said.

Anna is also saving money on her bills. “My gas and electric bills have really gone down. I’m on the budget plan, and right now I’m \$218 in my favor. That’s never happened before.” Cost savings are only part of the benefit for Anna. “I love to bake,” she said, and now she enjoys being in her comfortable kitchen.

## Get started

Visit [nyserdera.ny.gov/home](http://nyserdera.ny.gov/home) or call **1-866-NYSERDA** to learn how you can reduce your energy consumption and costs.

“I could just live in my kitchen, it’s so warm and comfortable. I’m so thrilled about all the improvements that were made.”

— Anna Napoleon, Newark, NY

