

Innovative Outstanding Weatherization Assistance News

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Happy New Year!!!

From all of us in the
Weatherization Bureau
in Des Moines

Jim, Gwen, Mark,
Chris, Mike and Rosemary

Welcome

- Welcome to the first **IOWAN** of 2006! Everyone at the DCAA is looking forward to working with all of you this next year. We hope you find some new and interesting information in this newsletter. Should you have content suggestions for future issues, please send them to Chris.taylor@iowa.gov.
- The 2005 National Weatherization Training Conference was held December 11-14, 2005 in Atlanta, Georgia. In this issue, we have included some "Tips" gained from one of the conference sessions as well as a couple of pictures. Although the venue changed from New

Orleans to Atlanta with little time to plan, the conference was the most-attended in DOE's history. It was common to hear "This conference kept my attention. It has to be the best one ever!" Some insight gained at the conference:

- "To make a client unhappy is to *not* explain things to them."
- "Remember, you are a detective looking for clues."
- "Don't do the "periscope up" in the attic (all you do is poke your head into the attic). Be sure to really get up into the attic and perform a complete evaluation."

Statistics

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>*QTRLY</u> | <u>**YTD</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Houses Worked On | 514 | 1373 |
| Completions | 477 | 1254 |
| Closed Incomplete | 37 | 119 |
| Owner Occupied | 470 | 1208 |
| Rentals | 44 | 165 |
| Elderly Occupied | 194 | 490 |
| Disabled Occupied | 247 | 637 |
| Occupied by Young Children | 176 | 284 |
| Furnace Replacements | 290 | 667 |
| Refrigerator Replacements | 241 | 574 |
| Freezer Replacements | 101 | 247 |
| Average Costs Per House | \$6,285 | \$5,933 |

Totals for all agencies combined
* QTRLY (September—November 2005)
** YTD (Program year through November)

Agency Spotlight—Operation Threshold

Weatherization Display

Submitted by Lori Miller, Community Resources Director

The Waterloo Public Library asked Operation Threshold to use their display case for the month of November. Since November is the first month of LIHEAP for most people, we thought it would be appropriate to showcase both LIHEAP and the Weatherization program. With the cost of natural gas increasing so much this year, the exhibit was a great public educational tool and not just for low-income families. The display case is approximately 4 feet tall by 12 feet long, so it gave us plenty of room to present a wide variety of materials.



Our display focused on various weatherization tips and energy saving ideas. The University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy Education, Mid American Energy and Cedar Falls Utilities offered many different promotional items for the display. To show consumers the value of changing their furnace filters, we included not only a clean filter, but a dirty one as well. Next to the dirty filter we placed cracked heat exchang-



ers which were removed from houses we had weatherized. We highlighted the cracks to show consumers that even a small crack can be dangerous.



Service Recognition—Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation

30th Year Anniversary

Scott Barnett, the Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NICAC) Energy Programs Director, celebrated 30 years of service last month.

Scott began his career with NICAC in December of 1975 as a carpenter for the Emergency Energy Conservation Program and in May of 1977, he was promoted to Crew Foreman. In September of 1977, he was promoted to Coordinator of the Weatherization Program. In August of 2001, he earned his standing as a Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP). Scott was most recently promoted to Energy Programs Director in September of 2003. Not only has Scott held various positions in his career, but he has also become a Certified Lead Inspector and is certified in Asbestos Safe Work Practices.

In Scott's 30 years with NICAC, he has worked with and supervised over 100 people. Currently, Scott and his staff have over 101 years experience working with the Weatherization Program.

Congratulations, Scott!

"What a surprise and wonderful Christmas present! Shortly before Christmas, a new furnace was installed in my home.

I am 67 years old and have lived in my home for 44 years. The old furnace was here when I moved into this house in 1961. Every year when winter arrived, I would say a prayer, hoping my old furnace would make it through one more winter.

Thanks to the Weatherization Program for my new furnace. This is a great program, one I hope you will carry on."

- Community Opportunities, Inc. Client

Resources

<http://www.homeenergy.org/katrina.html>

After Katrina and Rita: What *Home Energy* Will Do

<http://www.energyoutwest.org>

The Technical Archives discuss Weatherization Plus Health

News

2006 Weatherization State Plan—A draft of the 2006 Weatherization State Plan was recently sent to the local agencies in Iowa and other interested parties. The public hearing for the state plan is scheduled for January 20, 2006.

Calibration of Magnehelic Gauges—The Energy Conservatory recently discontinued calibration support for Magnehelic gauges. Recalibration and repair of gauges can be done by Dwyer Instrument in Michigan City, IN. Visit www.dwyer-inst.com for more information.

2005 National Weatherization Training Conference Pictures



Opening Plenary

Client Education Session



Awards Luncheon

Tips

"The "Tips" below were submitted by Denny Krause, of Community Action Agency of Siouxland, who attended the **Tools and Tricks of the Trade - Gizmos, Gadgets, and Whizbangs** session at the 2005 National Weatherization Training Conference in Atlanta, Georgia."

- The use of telescoping ladders...compact and light-weight for site-to-site travel.
- Sonar tape measure...use of laser beam to measure...eliminates inaccurate and inaccessible hard-to-reach measurements.
- Infrared non-contact thermometer...for surface temperatures and hard-to-reach surfaces.
- Digital Cameras...use for documentation.
- LED Flashlights...durable...no filament to burn out, does not generate heat, long lasting.
- All-in-one industrial grade tools to eliminate carrying several individual tools.
- Measuring Wheel...rapid and accurate measurements for large distances.
- Mini Binoculars...useful for examining roofs, flashing, chimneys and the exterior of buildings.
- Compact gas detector....carry in shirt pocket.
- Step-up Bit...eliminates need for multiple drill bits on the job.
- MultiMeter and GFI Receptacle Tester...for safe testing of electrical currents.
- Digital Pocket Probe Thermometer....for ambient temperatures, air temperatures, duct registers
- Torpedo Level...Troubleshoot boiler distribution systems, check to see if doors/door jams are plumb.
- Magnetic Pick-up Tool...pick up screws, nuts etc. without bending over or in tight spots not easily accessible.
- Blinking Reminder...Acts as reminder to return to location or did you forget something?
- Moisture Meter...help locate possible location/presence of mold.
- Soap or WD-40... rub/spray on siding seams when the siding is difficult to slide back on.
- Drill away from the flue to avoid dropping shavings into the motor.

Agency Spotlight—Operation New View

Aquila Cares Matches Anonymous Dubuque Donation for Total of \$80,000 to Help Local Residents Pay Energy Bills

DUBUQUE, IA, November 3, 2005 – Aquila Cares is matching a \$40,000 donation by a Dubuque organization, wishing to remain anonymous, to provide assistance for residents having difficulty paying their energy bills, a local Aquila official said today.

Aquila Cares helps qualifying individuals in communities, where Aquila provides natural gas, pay their energy bills and make emergency repairs to heating and cooling equipment. The \$80,000 from the anonymous donation and Aquila match is being provided to Operation: New View community action agency, specifically to assist Dubuque area residents.



“The donating organization said it hoped the contribution would inspire others to help those less fortunate who are on low or fixed incomes,” said Laura Roussell, operations supervisor for Aquila in Dubuque. “We are thrilled knowing this donation means more people can be helped with winter energy costs.”

The donation announcement was made during a “Keep Our Neighbors Warm” meeting of assistance agencies and church leaders in Dubuque. Local assistance agencies have been meeting annually with Aquila for the past 10 years to find ways to help persons who are having financial difficulty with energy costs.

In addition, to the \$80,000 donation for Dubuque, the community also will share in \$33,400 for communities in Aquila’s natural gas service area in Iowa. This amount includes a \$27,000 in Aquila corporate funds, as well as \$6,400 that represents customer donations and the company’s dollar-for-dollar match.

This year Aquila increased its contribution to the Aquila Cares program from \$100,000 to \$500,000 across its seven-state



service area. Aquila matches customer and employee contributions to Aquila Cares, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$250,000. Also, Aquila is separately donating an additional \$250,000 to the program. If fully matched, the program could provide a total of \$750,000.

Aquila’s previous maximum contribution was \$100,000, with the company matching 50 cents on every dollar contributed. Since 2001, the Aquila Cares program has provided more than \$1 million in customer and company funds to assist residents in the company’s service area.

Aquila Cares funds are distributed by Project Helper, which is administered by the Iowa Community Action Association.

Customers may make tax-deductible contributions to Aquila Cares on their monthly bill by calling Aquila Customer Service at 1-800-303-0752, or sending a check payable to Aquila Cares, P.O. Box 11975, Kansas City, MO 64138. Nearly 5,000 customers currently help their neighbors by including Aquila Cares contributions with their monthly energy bill payments.

Aquila provides natural gas service to 145,000 customers in Iowa. Based in Kansas City, Mo., Aquila operates electricity and natural gas distribution utilities serving 1.3 million customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska. More information is available at www.aquila.com.

Tentative 2006 Fiscal Monitoring Schedule

| | |
|----------|---|
| January | None Scheduled |
| February | Polk County South Central Iowa Community Action Program |
| March | Mid-Iowa Community Action City of Des Moines Iowa East Central T.R.A.I.N. Red Rock Area Community Action Program |

Extreme Photos

The household the pictures below came from, had seven people living in the house; two adults, 8-year old twins, one 3-year old, and 16-month old twins. The furnace was induced draft but the filter was completely plugged. The water heater was not drafting at all, usually it was back drafting.

The client said that she, and the three small kids have been complaining about headaches and she was just making appointments for the doctor to see what the problem was. I think we found it!

—(North Iowa)



The pictures below are from a 12-plex building with coin-operated washers and dryers.



Above is a plywood box where two dryer terminations dump their exhaust.



This is the continuation of the dryer vent and where it hooks into the gutter system.



Does the exhaust go up the downspout, or could this be where the exhaust terminates? Maybe a little bit of both? A renter indicated the exhaust terminates here. Wow!

Reminders

Combustion Analyzers—To guard against damaging the sensors in your combustion analyzer, wait to insert the probe into the flue until the appliance has reached steady state.

Flex Line in Brick Chimneys—Because brick chimneys are rarely straight, you may not be able to insert a rigid pipe. Instead, rigid pipe should be run from the furnace and/or water heater and then connected to flex pipe at the brick chimney.

Water Column—There are 250 Pascals in a 1" column of water.

Temperature Rise—The purpose of testing the temperature rise and static pressure is to identify potential problems with the furnace. Temperature rise is the temperature difference between the supply air ducts and the return air ducts.

Checking for Spillage—The purpose of draft testing is to ensure the proper venting of all combustion devices in the home to reduce the chances of the appliances back drafting. Back drafting results in the spillage of combustion gases into

the home. The combustion gases, or exhaust, is comprised mostly of moisture, enabling the evaluator to use a mirror to check for spillage. If the mirror fogs up, you know there is spillage.

Condensation in Chimneys—Condensation in chimneys is caused by a low stack temperature and flue gases.

Weatherization Eligibility—Remember, federal guidelines state that Titles IV (TANF/FIP) and XVI (SSI) recipients are eligible for weatherization services regardless of income. Therefore, if a FIP or SSI recipient is not eligible for LiHEAP based on income, they are still eligible for weatherization. Note that eligibility regardless of income does not include persons receiving regular social security or social security disability income (SSDI), which is Title II.

DOE Regional Office—The Department of Energy will officially close their regional office in Chicago, Illinois on September 30, 2006. Staff will be relocated to Golden, Colorado.

Handiwork



Above are pictures of a scuttle door built by Don Ellis and Duane Foltz of Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation in Decorah, Iowa. The door is hinged on one end and also in the middle so it will slide open as you push up; built because of the restricted head room above the access.

Shelters

Weatherizing Shelters—MidAmerican Energy, Interstate Power and Light, and Aquila representatives have informed the DCAA that they encourage the use of their funds to weatherize shelters, such as homeless shelters and domestic abuse shelters. DOE and HEAP funds may also be used to weatherize these facilities.

Due to the notice we, the DCAA, sent to domestic abuse and homeless shelter coordinators, there has been a significant increase in the number of requests to weatherize shelters. Following is a summary of our policies regarding shelters.

In order to be eligible for weatherization services, a shelter must have as its primary purpose, the temporary housing of individuals. Facilities that provide services to a shelter are not eligible.

Our policies regarding shelters are similar to our policies for owner-occupied dwellings. This includes expenditure limits.

Refrigeration appliances in shelters can be metered and replaced when appropriate. However, if the shelter doesn't need insulation or if it can't be insulated, or if it has an unsafe heating system that would be expensive to replace, or if the dwelling is unusual due to its size, structure, configuration, etc., you need to discuss the situation with state staff before proceeding with weatherizing it.

Shelters will not have an AFN number since that number is assigned by LIHEAP. WAMS requires an AFN number. Therefore, you need to assign your own AFN number to shelters. If it is a large shelter that can be considered more than one unit, then separate AFN numbers need to be assigned to each unit.

For purposes of determining how many dwelling units exist in a shelter, each 800 square feet of the shelter may be counted as a dwelling unit or each floor may be counted as a dwelling unit.

Lastly, we would like to know how many shelters are weatherized. There is not a way to identify shelters from the data you send us. Therefore, we are requesting that you keep a count of the shelters you weatherize and provide the information to us at the end of the program year.

Tentative 2005 PY Monitoring Schedule

| | |
|----------|--|
| January | None Scheduled |
| February | West Central Development Corporation Red Rock Area Community Action Program |
| March | None Scheduled |

Upcoming Events

January 2006

11—14 **International Builders' Show.** To be held in Orlando, FL. For more information, visit <http://www.buildersshow.com/Home/>.

February 2006

13—14 **2006 NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Conference.** To be held in Washington, DC. For more information, email chomol@gove.org.

March 2006

7—9 **Building Energy Conference & Trade Show.** To be held in Boston, MA. For more information, visit <http://www.buildingenergy.nesea.org/>.

April 2006

10—14 **2006 Energy Outwest Conference "Sustainability: One House at a Time".** To be held in Portland, OR. For more information, visit <http://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/EOW/> or <http://www.energyoutwest.org/index.html>.

Coming Soon! 2006 Training Schedule at www.weatherization.iowa.gov !

Speed Bumps

- Crawlspace wall fiberglass insulation needs to extend 24" on the ground. (Section 5031.03 page 17)
- Garage leakage testing is required for a completion when it is applicable. Testing instructions are in Section 2052 of the Work Standards. When performing the test, if the house to zone pressure is over 25pa with the doors closed (normal set up for blower door test), then you should open the door between the house/zone to do the final (door open) CFM 50 test. If the pressure reading is less than 25pa, then you should open the exterior garage door for the final (door open) CFM 50 test. The reading that needs to be entered into WAMS is the building to zone CFM 50 reading.
- Crawlspace vents must be sealed; however, when permanently sealing the vents, the clients permission must be obtained. (Section 5031.02 page 17)
- Wall cavities on the exterior wall of two-story homes that are used as part of the return system need to be sealed and insulated. (Section 5021 page 11)
- Balloon wall cavities should be sealed or stuffed tight with F/G at the top of the cavity prior to insulating. (Section 5021 page 11)
- Seal open bypasses in the attic such as around the sewer vent. (Section 5011 page 1)
- Dense-pack floored attics prior to insulating over the floor. (Section 5013.01 page 5)
- Make sure inlet and outlet air for high-efficiency furnaces and power-vented water heaters are at least 12" off of the ground. The 12" is to the bottom of the pipe from grade. (Nat'l Fuel Gas Code)
- Duct insulation is to be tied on and be at least an R-10. This applies to both the supply and return ducts. (Section 4020 page 10) Exhaust duct insulation also needs to be tied on and must be at least an R-6. (Section 2090 page 111)
- Compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs are to be installed and not just left with the client.
- Dryer vents are not to be screwed together. (Section 2030 page 50)
- Mobile home ceilings are to be insulated if there is R-11 or less in the ceiling and there is no documented reason for not insulating them. (Section 8121 page 28-29)

Please feel free to copy and distribute.

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We're on the Web!!!
www.weatherization.iowa.gov

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