



# Kicking out the cold and cutting the heating bills

## Situation

- Chilly house made family uncomfortable

## Solutions

- Attic and basement insulation
- Cracks and gaps caulked
- Education about ways to save energy

## Benefits

- Significant reduction in energy costs
- Warmer, cozier home



Konstanty family

Every winter, Susan Konstanty’s Cape Cod-style home felt chilly, and she couldn’t understand why. She and her family live about 20 miles from Niagara Falls, so winter storms can be fierce. Even with the thermostat set at 68 degrees, the 1,500-square-foot home felt drafty, making her family uncomfortable.

## A whole-house approach

Susan worked with a contractor who specializes in home energy inspections, energy upgrades, and energy education. The contractor takes a big-picture approach to saving energy. After the assessment, Susan’s contractor specified energy-saving improvements including insulation. Just as important, he showed Susan that she could save money with other household activities such as switching to compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs and using cold water for laundry.

From the driveway, the contractor spotted icicles dangled from the roof. Icicles indicate inadequate insulation, the main cause of the house’s chill. A review of Susan’s heating and electric bills told its own story: she was paying far too much to heat her home.

## Cozy house, steady bills

The contractor recommended insulation for the home’s roof and basement, along with caulking cracks and gaps to reduce drafts. Today, Susan’s house is cozy and efficient, so much so that she sets the thermostat at 65 degrees—and feels warmer than she did when it was set three degrees higher.

## 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.

“Energy efficiency creates a better life for people struggling to pay their bills, and it improves the environment, too, because we’re using less energy.”

— Susan Konstanty, Gasport, NY

