

ENERGY DESIGNED HOMESSM

Mission Statement

Strong families build successful lives and successful communities.
Families need homes! We are committed to improving
Homes and to making homes more affordable.

How?

1. Raise Awareness:

Number one by far is to raise awareness, not to pound better nails! We already have what everyone wants ... *Comfort, Safety, Durability, and Economy*; they just don't know we have it!

We have known for years how to build better housing, but we don't always do it. Why? (See attached presentation, *Energy Efficiency, Barriers and Opportunities*, prepared several years ago for a community conservation meeting.)

Let me give some examples of our "awareness".

- Why do we build homes that waste ½ of their energy?
- Why do we use light bulbs that produce more heat than light? Why don't we call them heaters?
- We all want Comfort, Safety, Durability, and Economy in our homes, but usually buy Corian or the Jacuzzi ... why don't we have both? One can pay for the other!
- Why do Affordable Housing Agencies usually focus on First Cost, not Lifecost?
- Why are new windows the first upgrade in older, still uninsulated homes?
- Why do we add more wall and attic insulation when *uncontrolled air leakage* and *uninsulated foundations* can be 75% of the heat loss of the minimally insulated home?

2. Teach, Preach, and Nag ... Best Practice

Best Practice is fairly simple to list, more difficult to detail, but essentially it includes:

- **Insulate:** the entire shell; keep insulation in contact with the warm surface; protect it from air washing; and keep it dry!
- **Ventilate Right:** controlled air movement, not random air leakage!
- **Make Airtight:** too leaky can be a greater health hazard than too tight!
- **Right Size Mechanicals:** bigger is not better!
- **Manage Water:** keep moisture out and let it out, because it will get in!
- **Add Mass:** mass dampens the day gain, night heat loss pendulum
- **Ask, does it work?** Many "better" building ideas (and some codes) don't really achieve their objective. Be objective. Ask, "Does it work?"