



PRESS RELEASE

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Workshops Help Homeowners save Money, Energy

Do you ever wonder how much of the money you spend on your home heating bills is going toward heating your house, and how much is going instead to heat the great outdoors?

Energy Wise Otsego kicks off its second series of workshops on energy efficiency next Tuesday, October 29 during the Cooperstown Rotary Club's weekly luncheon/meeting at The Otesaga Resort Hotel.

Energy Wise Otsego members will explain how to take advantage of New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) incentives, including free or low-cost home energy assessments, government subsidies, and low-interest loans.

Participants will also learn why a Building Performance Institute (BPI) accredited contractor is necessary to perform an energy assessment and how the contractor can assist in creating a plan for home improvement measures not only to save energy but also to make homes safer and more comfortable.

"Energy Wise Otsego can help people make their homes cooler in the summer, warmer in the winter, healthier and help to save money on utility bills," said Martha Clarvoe, Otsego County Conservation Association special projects manager and EWO committee member. "My home energy audit discovered a health hazard, as our hot water heater was improperly vented, and improvements made my house less drafty."

Visitors are welcome to join the Cooperstown Rotary for next week's Energy Wise Otsego presentation, with or without lunch. Non-Rotary members interested in attending should contact Tom Heitz for details at (607) 547-9735 or cooperstom@aol.com by Monday, October 28.

Energy Wise Otsego is an ad hoc group, the mission of which is to promote energy conservation in Otsego County through public outreach and education. To learn more, visit <http://occainfo.org/documents/SpeakerHandout100113FINAL.pdf>.

To help people afford energy-saving improvements to their homes, NYSERDA offers financing that eliminates up-front costs for most homeowners. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for qualified homeowners, and the On-Bill Repayment loan allows people to repay their low-interest loan as a line item on their utility bill. See

<http://stars.nyserdagreeny.org/?gclid=CPKckcbjqLoCFY6Z4Aod530AMQ> for further information.