

The Northfield News

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Win a \$10,000 Makeover From Efficiency Vermont

By **JOHN CRUICKSHANK**
The Northfield News

The kickoff to Efficiency Vermont's makeover contest begins this Saturday at 11 a.m. and runs until 2 p.m. at Kenyon's hardware store.

Homeowners in the village or town may apply to win a free energy audit and up to \$10,000 in energy efficient improvements.

Applications will be available in a number of locations around the village and town and must be turned in by October 15.

The program is sponsored by Efficiency Vermont which is funded by an efficiency fee collected as part of everyone's utility bills. The money collected is then used to encourage people to use more efficient and sustainable conservation practices in their homes, said Bob Murphy, a business development specialist with the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.

Earlier, Efficiency Vermont sponsored the program that allowed people to purchase efficient compact fluorescent bulbs which have been available at Aubuchon Hardware and other outlets in town for several months at a substantial discount.

In addition to the grand prize of an audit and \$10,000 there are two runner up awards that include an audit and up to \$2,000 in efficiency improvements.

Mr. Murphy stated that this is the first time such a contest has been run even though the idea has been in the works for some time.

"I promised [the Northfield Energy Action Team, NEAT] two years ago that we'd do it," he said.

Mr. Murphy stressed that he hoped that this contest would make people more aware of the value of making improvements to their homes that will save fuel.

Karen Gillespie Korrow, who operates Gillespie's Fuels and Propane stated that she felt that if everyone insulated their homes and put in efficient windows, they could cut their fuel oil and propane costs considerably. She said that people could really substantially reduce the cost of fuel oil if they would just make improvements to their homes.

She reiterated that an energy audit is the best way to get started to find out just how much you could save by insulating your home and replacing the windows with more efficient ones.

Mr. Murphy stated that even though an energy audit can cost a homeowner \$300 to \$500, it is well worth it if you follow through and make the improvements called for by the audit. He said a savings of \$300 per month on fuel oil costs are quite common.

Some of the things that people should look for that will tell them right away that they need an audit are fast melting snow from your roof or icicles building up on the eaves, condensation on the walls and cold drafts.

All of these suggest heat loss that could be corrected by insulation and other improvements that an audit would suggest, he said.
