PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMPIRE RECOGNIZES
NATIONAL WEATHERIZATION DAY

Ozark, MO – Thursday, October 27, 2016 – Empire will recognize National Weatherization Day on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, by joining with Ozark Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC) for a home weatherization project. The OACAC Weatherization Team will demonstrate some of the energy-saving measures customers can apply to their own homes to prepare for cold weather.

The project is funded in part by Empire's Low Income Weatherization Program which has provided over $1.9 million in weatherization assistance for over 1,800 homes since the program began in 2005.

Here are a few weatherization and energy-saving tips:

Seal air leaks. Hidden gaps and cracks in a home can add up to as much airflow as an open window! This causes your heating system to work harder and use more energy. Use caulk or weather-stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows. Ensure plumbing and electrical penetrations are sealed.

Install a door sweep. Door sweeps – or weather stops for garage doors – seal the gap between the bottom of the door and threshold, preventing warm air from escaping.

Close fireplace dampers when not in use. Fireplace dampers reduce air loss only when they're closed. When your fireplace is not in use, be sure the damper is securely shut.

Tighten up. Check windows and doors to make sure they are tightly closed. Close storm windows. If windows are outdated and single pane, consider adding a layer of plastic. When it's time to replace them, look for ENERGY STAR rated windows. Keep attached garage doors closed whenever possible.

Inspect duct work. Ducts that move air to and from a forced air furnace, central air conditioner or heat pump are often big energy wasters. Seal any ducts that run through the attic, crawlspace, unheated basement or garage. Use duct sealant or metal-backed (foil) tape to seal the seams and connections of ducts. Wrap ducts in unconditioned spaces with insulation to reduce heating and cooling losses. Make sure supply and return air vents are not blocked.

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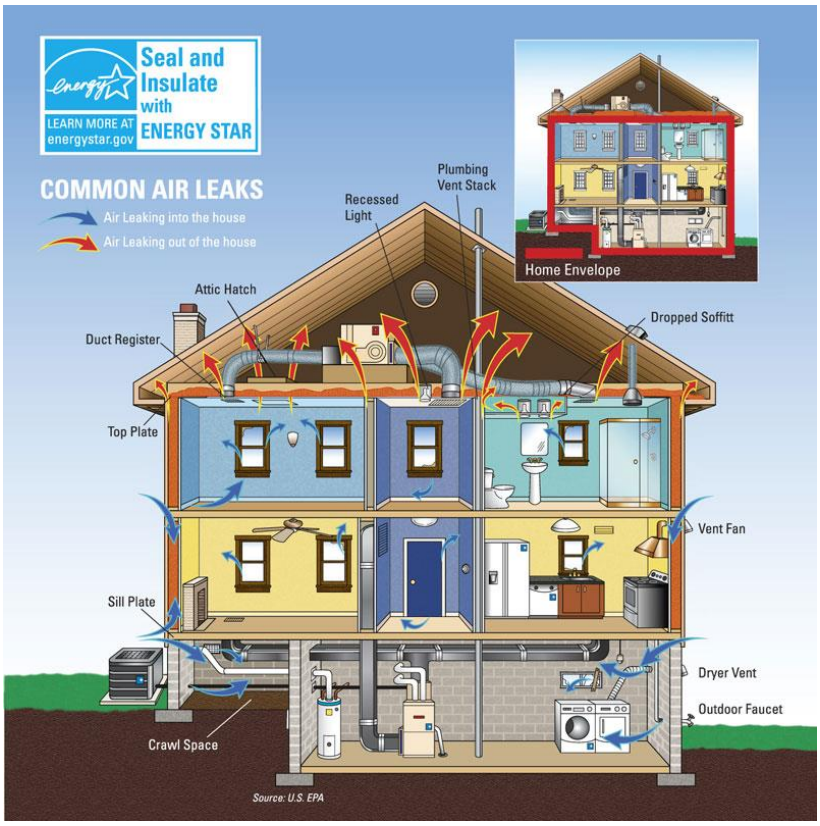
Check/add insulation. Proper insulation is important to ensure your home is ready for cold weather. Looking across your attic, if the insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you probably need to add more insulation. The insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots; sometimes there is enough insulation in the middle of the attic and very little along the eaves. For our region, ENERGY STAR recommends R38 to R60 for attics and R25 to R30 for basements or crawlspaces.



Consider a tune-up. Just as a tune-up for your car can improve gas mileage, a yearly tune-up of your heating system can improve efficiency and comfort. When it's time to replace it, choose an energy efficient model and check for available Empire rebates before you buy.

More tips and information. Visit http://www.empiredistrict.com/Energy#toptips for more tips and program information. Try the Energy Calculators to find ways to save based on your home's unique characteristics.

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