Home Energy Community of Practice

Sarah Kirby
North Carolina State University
eXtension is:
“an internet-based collaborative environment where Land Grant University content providers exchange objective, research-based knowledge to solve real challenges in real time”

(eXtension, 2011)
Community of Practice (CoP)

“a virtual network of subject matter content providers . . . who share knowledge or competence in a specific content area and are willing to work and learn together over a period of time to further develop and share that knowledge in forms of educational products and programs”.
Communities of Practice Membership

- Opportunity to collaborate with other professionals
- Abreast of new resources and information in your field
- Professional development/training opportunities
- Beneficial to states with limited resources
Why a Home Energy CoP?

• Critical need for reliable, credible information
• Energy prices are increasing, as is concerns about energy demand
• Aging housing stock with considerable energy issues
• Environmental and conservation concerns
Purpose of the Home Energy CoP

• To provide education to the general public and housing professionals focused on residential energy efficiency and renewable energy

• To encourage adoption of best practices that will reduce home energy use while aiding in family economic stability, national energy independence and environmental stewardship
Initial Beginnings for the Home Energy CoP

- Initial Leadership Meeting -- November 2008
- First CoP gathering, January 2009

- CoP Public Launching on Earth Day, April 2010
CoP Leadership
CoP Members

- 8 Leaders
- 114 Members
- 12 positions
- 38 States
How CoPs work...

Develop Products --
- Basic Information
- Ask the Experts
- FAQs
- Discussion & Web Chats
- Decision Making Tools
- Webinars
- Streaming Videos
- Individual Learning Modules
- Multiple Learning Modules
- Certificate/Credit Courses
- Distance Diagnostics

Questions, Issues, or Life Events
Communities of Practice Related to Energy

- Home Energy
- Wood Energy
- Farm Energy
- EDEN
Categorization of Content

- Existing Homes
- New Homes
- Alternative Energy Systems
What about the Home Energy Site?

• 175 Frequently Asked Questions
• 118 Articles
• 110 News Articles
• 1 Learning Lesson
• 37 Questions in last 30 Days
• 2000 – 3000 monthly visits
• 50,000+ yearly visits
Feature Articles

Household Laundry Tips for Saving Money and Home Energy

Save Money and Energy While Cleaning and Drying Your Clothes

Whether you’re using a new machine or an old one, a few practices will save money and energy each time you do your laundry:

- Do your laundry correctly the first time, so you don’t have to re-wash it.
- Pretreat or presoak stains and heavy soils before washing.
- Launder full loads, but make sure the washer isn’t overloaded. The washer’s water level should match the load size.
- Whenever possible, wash loads in cold water. Rinse all loads in cold water. Make sure that your laundry detergent is compatible with your washer. Because high-efficiency (HE) washers are designed to save water and energy, check to make sure that your laundry detergent is compatible by checking the bottle for the HE symbol. Using traditional laundry detergents in an HE washer can result in lower cleaning performance and a sudsy mess.
- To lessen drying time, use a higher spin speed for items such as towels and sweatshirts. It takes less energy to spin water out of fabrics than to dry the water out.
Frequently Asked Questions

Questions tagged with "home energy"

31. Does the location of the heating and cooling system have an effect on energy use in my home?
   Updated: December 01, 2011

32. Can I test for radon in my home by myself?
   Updated: December 01, 2011

33. What are the major design strategies for passive solar design?
   Updated: December 01, 2011

34. Should I hire a professional to add insulation to my home? Can I do it myself?
   Updated: December 01, 2011

35. Who is most affected by mold in homes?
   Updated: December 01, 2011

36. Are the Home High Efficiency (HE) clothes washers more energy efficient?
   Updated: December 01, 2011

37. When should I have my heating system checked by a heating professional?
   Updated: December 01, 2011

38. What are "green" homes and are they affordable?
   Updated: December 01, 2011

39. Why do ceiling fans have a switch to allow the blades to turn clockwise or counterclockwise?
   Updated: December 01, 2011

40. How can compact fluorescent lamps/lightbulbs (CFLs) be good for the environment if they contain mercury?
   Updated: December 01, 2011
Ask an Expert Feature

Ask an Expert

1. Ask a Question
2. Search for an instant answer
3. If there’s no answer, we send it to our experts

Your Question

What kinds of questions can eXtension answer?

Optional: You can include an image with your question after the search

Search for an Answer

eXtension provides objective and research-based information and learning opportunities that help people improve their lives. eXtension is an educational partnership of 74 universities in the United States.
All news tagged with "home energy"

1. Set Goals this Month for a Greener Lifestyle
   Updated: March 02, 2012
2. Keep the Heat in Your House, But Keep Out the Radon
   Updated: February 08, 2012
3. Specialist Compares Space Heater Claims and Reality
   Updated: January 22, 2012
4. Take Advantage of Available Tax Credits and Deductions
   Updated: January 16, 2012
5. Choose the Best Firewood
   Updated: January 13, 2012
6. Changing Bulbs Can Save More Than a Little Change
   Updated: January 09, 2012
7. Save Money, Hold Off Chill by Winterizing Your Home
   Updated: December 29, 2011
8. Flooding and Wet Soil May Worsen Winter Home Moisture Problems
   Updated: December 21, 2011
9. For Each $1 Invested into an Urban Tree, a City Reaps $6 in Benefit, Says Tree Expert in NYC
   Updated: December 16, 2011
10. New Dye Will Lead To More Efficient Solar Energy Technology
    Updated: December 19, 2011
Learning Lessons

Home Energy Use 101:

After completing this course, you should have an understanding of the ways energy is used in a home, as well as some ideas for reducing home energy use.

This course is part of a pilot project brought to you by the North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy, North Dakota Department of Commerce and North Dakota State University Extension Service in cooperation. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the course or included materials, please contact information provided below.

After successfully enrolling, completing the course requirements and answering the quiz correctly, you will be able to print a certificate of completion that will entitle you to $50 off closing costs on a Gateway Bank loan.

Author: Carl Pedersen, NDSU Extension Service
Ag and Biosystems Engineering
Contact Info: carl.pedersen@ndsu.edu

Home Energy 101 - Start Here

Watch the video below for an introduction to the course.
Home Energy 101: Content Views

HE101 - All activity (all roles)
Schedule for Sunday, January 29, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 AM</td>
<td>Reel Retro - Killers From Space (View)</td>
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<td>4:00 AM</td>
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<td>Unleavened Bread Ministries</td>
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<td>Redeemer Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>Mandan Seventh-day Adventist Devotional</td>
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<td>Our Savior's Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>Mormon Tabernacle Choir</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Legacy United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>A Sense Of Place by Bismarck-Mandan Symphony (View)</td>
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<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>WOW - Charity Lutheran Church</td>
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Home Energy Webinars

- Tax Credits
- Building Codes
- Energy Star
- Air Sealing
- Windows
- Alternative Solar Energy
- WxTV
- Preparing for Winter
- Geothermal
- Energy Master
- Wood Energy

- Appliances
- Rebuilding after Flooding
- Green Products
- Weatherization
Most recent webinar:
Colorado Energy Master
Home Energy CoP Partners:

- U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)
- Building America
- U.S. Department of Energy
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- Energy Star
- NIFA
- Electrical Safety Foundations International (ESFi)
- Extension
La House

LaHouse

Home > Family & Home > Home > LaHouse

Upcoming Events at LaHouse
Check out what's happening at LaHouse – horticulture Lunch and Learn seminars, Master Gardener Training, Lead Certified Renovator Training, other best building practice seminars, seasonal Saturday events and more.

LaHouse Summer Saturday
LaHouse Summer Saturday Open House will be July 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Explore the

LaHouse – Home and Landscape Resource Center
A research-based showcase of solutions and educational programs to help you shape the future with homes that offer MORE benefits with LESS ....

My House, My Home
Whenever you build, remodel or buy a home, you have the power
Baseload & EnergyStar: The energy our appliances use

As part of our Consumer Ed Series, this is our baseload episode. We're going to travel to Raleigh, NC to join Sarah Kirby as she shows us ways to figure out the energy that our appliances use. We'll also see ways to cut those costs and how Energy Star appliances will help.

- date added: 9/22/11 ... New Episode!
UGA Greenway

UGA GreenWay
Education · Athens, Georgia

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Write something...

UGA GreenWay
https://www.facebook.com/USDA

U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDA is committed to providing safe and nutritious food, conservation, sustainable food production and revitalizing rural America. Comment Policy: http://www.usda.gov/newmedia
Page: 26,429 people like this

Like · Comment · Share · Friday at 11:18pm

Got Drugs? Drug Disposal – National Take-Back

UGA GreenWay shared a link.

Got Back Pain?
corrective-chiropractic.com

We can help you get fast pain relief today. Call 1-Chat (0)
Healthy Homes Partnership

Information for consumers and educators on how to protect the environment around the home.

Find us on Facebook

Sign Up
Create an account or log in to see what your friends like.

Healthy Homes Partnership

This site gives some useful information for consumers on safe ways to control pests.

Pesticides and Consumers
Pesticides and Consumers | US EPA
www.epa.gov
Additional Areas for Home Energy CoP to Explore

- Social media
- Indoor air quality / healthy homes relationships
- Engaging consumers
- Agency collaborations
Home Energy CoP Challenges:

• eXtension Audiences
  Homeowners
  Home Builders / Contractors
  Renters
  Varying Income Levels
• Climate
• Combining high tech with high touch
Development and Maintenance of the CoP

Content Appraisal
Optimization Appraisal
New Content