



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Colorado Family Cuts Winter Energy Bill Almost In Half

With cold weather and snow on its way again, this Centennial family shares how life is now that their energy bills are lower and how this was accomplished.

LAKEWOOD, CO— After winning the [Xcel Energy Makeover Contest](#), the Chavez’s energy bills have decreased by almost 50%, in spite of a colder winter. “Before we won this contest I was always cold. We could hear the wind whistling through the windows and the house was constantly too hot or too cold,” explains Wendy Chavez. “Now the home is so comfortable, we can keep the thermostat set to a much lower setting than before. Our energy bills seem to be half of what they were last year. We’ve been able to do so much more each month with the money we’re saving.”

Some of the sponsor donated improvements to the Chavez home include a dual fuel heating system, a tankless hot water heater, new windows and window coverings, insulation, duct cleaning and sealing, and lighting fixtures and bulbs.

The solutions to the Chavez energy problems were diagnosed with a [Home Energy Audit](#), or an Energy Analysis. This critical first step allows homeowners to understand where they need to make adjustments, what their problem areas are, and how to prioritize the projects based on potential savings. “I’d never heard about an energy analysis before we had one done. During the blower door test you could actually hear the house whistling. We were surprised to discover that the bricks around the fireplace and the mantel itself were leaking heavily. Not the flue, but actually the brick surround. We were also really surprised to learn about the energy that non essential items like our DVR and computers were using,” explains George.

Now that the Chavez home is finished other homeowners are encouraged to learn more about energy efficiency and what they can do by studying the Chavez home. On February 17th, an [educational workshop](#) and tour of the Chavez home is being presented by the Colorado Energy Science Center, the Chavez family, and sponsors. During this event energy experts will present how the Chavez home was diagnosed and the practical, step by step process of increasing its energy efficiency and comfort. After the workshop there will be tour of the Chavez home.

EVENT INFORMATION

Saturday, February 17th, 9 a.m.-noon, followed by a home tour
National Renewable Energy Laboratory Visitors Center, Golden
Registration is required. The \$15 fee, payable by cash, check, Visa or MasterCard at the door, includes breakfast, a workshop resource packet and a home tour. To register, visit www.smartenergyliving.org and click on workshops, or call the workshop line at 303-216-2026 ext 150.

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