

# Westchester/Bronx Energy \$mart Communities

An outreach project of the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority

Winter 2010 Edition

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## Are You Aware That New York's Energy Code is Changing?

In January 2011, the 2010 Energy Conservation Construction Code of New York State will be based on the 2009 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007 (the current ECCCNY is based on the 2004 IECC supplement and ASHRAE 90.1-2004). The New York State Builders Association REF (NYSBA REF) is running four hour trainings statewide to address the New York State code changes.

Please follow this link:

<http://www.nysba.com/newsite/index.php?q=node/17> to find more information and register for the training that is most convenient for you or your company.



## Home Performance Contracting is Women's Work

Home Performance contracting is viewed as a traditionally male occupation. ESC wanted to hear from women in the field about what drew them to the job and how their experiences might be different. We interviewed Bonnie Hagen, MBA, LEED AP+, a BPI certified Building Analyst and Anne Farley, LEED



Bonnie Hagen, left. Anne Farley, right.

GA, a BPI trained Building Analyst pursuing certification. Both women are employed by All HVAC Service Co., Inc. and conduct Comprehensive Home Assessments under the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program, helping homeowners to identify

ways to decrease their energy use.

**What made you, as a woman, interested in pursuing this predominantly male career path?**

**Anne:** I've always been interested in environmental sciences, and I wanted to have a job that makes a difference. It's much better to have a life's work than a job.

**Bonnie:** I believe in saving the Earth. As for the field being primarily male, all fields were traditionally male-dominated, and now we have female doctors and lawyers. Also, having been an MBA in marketing, I was familiar with working within male-dominated corporate America—it was never a deterring factor.

**Have you faced any challenges that stem from being a female contractor?**

**Anne:** When homeowners answer the door, they will immediately look over your shoulder to see if there is anyone else there to conduct the assessment.

**Bonnie:** Yes—oftentimes, when assessing a home with a male family member present, the man will question my knowledge and expertise in a way that probably wouldn't happen to a male contractor.

## WINTER TRAININGS

### **Westchester Community College**

To register, call: (914) 606-6658

#### **Envelope Professional:**

February 24, April 4

### **Bronx Community College**

To register, call: (718) 289-5100

#### **Building Analyst Course: April 18**

#### **Envelope Professional:**

March 15

### **AEA in the Bronx**

To register, call: (718) 292-6733

#### **Building Analyst Course:**

March 2

#### **Basic Air Sealing and Insulation:**

April 22

#### **Multifamily Building Analyst:**

March 14

#### **Sales and Marketing:**

April 27

#### **Cooling Professional:**

March 21

*The Building Analyst Course consists of 24 hours of classroom instruction and 12 hours of field training for whole-home energy assessments.*

### ***Do you find any advantages to being a female contractor?***

**Anne:** Women are perceived as problem-solvers, not salespeople. Also, the female customers seem to be more comfortable talking to us, rather than being intimidated by unfamiliar subject matter.

**Bonnie:** Because women tend to trust that we are there to consult, not to sell, they take our recommendations more seriously.

### ***What would you say to a homeowner who wanted to save money on his or her heating bills this winter, but was on a tight budget?***

**Anne:** 35% of heating loss can be remedied by insulating the attic and basement. Focus on these areas first.

**Bonnie:** Insulating and air sealing are much less expensive than replacing a furnace or windows, but make sure that you have a carbon monoxide detector. When you make it difficult for air to escape, you have to monitor your air quality.



Anne Farley, left. Bonnie Hagen, right.

**For more information about the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program, visit**

**<http://getenergysmart.org/SingleFamilyHomes/Default.aspx>**

**For information about training for the green workforce, visit <http://getenergysmart.org/GreenJobs/Default.aspx>**