

1/10/2012 Ann Archino Howe for the Scarborough Energy Committee

Conventional wisdom seems to be that if one owns a newer home then it is as energy efficient as possible. "This is just not true," says Dana Fischer, Residential Program Manager for Efficiency Maine, "Houses in Maine built after the year 2000 that have undergone air sealing (insulation and caulking), and heating upgrades have shown an average of 41% savings in energy usage."

According to Efficiency Maine's literature, "Houses built before 2010 were not subject to the new state energy efficiency codes. Therefore, the age of a home is not necessarily a good indicator of energy efficiency." (from EMMYthsAndFacts) Because of the rapid residential growth in Scarborough during the last decade there are many homes in Town that fall into this category.

An energy audit of your home by a licensed and insured BPI-certified building professional is the first step to identifying improvements that will save energy in your home. The resulting report can become the master plan for energy saving projects in your home. It also forms the basis for the work that can be financed through a PACE or other loan.

When the Scarborough Energy Committee recommended, and the Scarborough Town Council approved the PACE ordinance and signed an administrative contract with Efficiency Maine in October, 2010, Scarborough residents gained access to low cost PACE loans to improve the energy efficiency of residential properties. The PACE loans are one way that Scarborough residents can implement your master plan for energy savings, as well as having a more comfortable home both winter and summer.

Since that time two PACE loans, totaling \$ 30,000, have closed in Scarborough with another two loans in process. Across the state a total of 125 loans totaling 1.6 million dollars have been closed in the PACE program with hundreds of applications under review.

Participating in and promoting the programs of Efficiency Maine, for the residents of Scarborough, is just one of the ways in which Scarborough and the Energy Committee are supporting the citizens of the Scarborough. Check out the Energy Committee's webpage periodically for tips and updates on energy efforts in Town. <http://www.scarborough.me.us/energy>