



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

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Prepare for the Worst

Fuel prices are starting to rise and there has been talk of some major increases in the cost of gas and oil this winter. That alone should be enough reason for homeowners to make sure their heating systems are in tip top shape and also to think seriously about having an energy audit done on their home. The information that comes from an energy audit is valuable and will give you a prioritized list of the places where your home is wasting energy. The equipment used for a modern energy audit is extremely accurate and when thermal imaging is used, there is no denying the evidence you will get in photos. I have done hundreds of them but now I mostly focus on the repairs and have someone I refer for the actual testing.

More than a few times we made energy repairs to a home and also replaced the heating system. With the proper calculations, we confidently replaced the furnace with one that was 1 or 2 sizes smaller and there have never been any complaints about comfort. Just much lower heating bills. That is the absolute best way to solve lots of problems at one time. My problem is that I'm getting old and crawling into these miserable, tight spaces is getting harder all the time. Young people don't seem to want to get involved and that's a shame. I think there should be a whole curriculum for this at vocational schools. From training with the tools used for energy audits to the tools used for energy repairs. The problem is that after all that training, someone has to go in these spaces and perform the repairs.

I like seeing that I made something better and made a difference in someone's life when I go to work. That can be as simple as repairing the heat in their home or solving a problem with pipes that freeze in the winter or as complicated as insulating the walls and attic and airsealing every place that energy is leaking. The sad part for me is that none of what we do is visible to the naked eye. When we do our work, it is all beneath and behind what is already built. We purposely don't want to leave any evidence like holes or marks on siding or cracked drywall.

What I do have are references who attest to the savings and comfort we created for them. That's something I can be proud of because those repairs will last as long as the house. It won't bring down fuel prices but it will make their energy bill much lower.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

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