



## Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

# Zimmermann Residence

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name

- Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

Customer

- Gene Zimmermann

Location

- Washington, NJ

Project Cost

- \$3,850

Financial Incentives

- 10% cash back - \$385

### PROJECT SAVINGS

Estimated Annual Energy Savings

- \$342

Annual Energy Benefits

- 109 kWh
- 210 BTUs
- 1,564 pounds of carbon emissions

Payback Period

- 11 years

*Project savings and environmental benefits vary by customer based on the size and condition of the home, scope of project, and energy use of residents.*



“The improved insulation, air sealing and duct sealing completely eliminated the drafts in our home. We used to have to bundle up if we wanted to read a book in the living room. Now, the wind can be howling outside and it is calm and comfortable anywhere in the home.”

*Gene Zimmermann  
Washington, NJ*

### Program Description

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR features “whole house” solutions to help New Jersey residents save up to 30 percent on their energy costs and reduce their carbon footprint. Specially trained and certified contractors assess homes of any style, size or price range for energy efficiency and overall performance, and then recommend improvements, costs of those improvements and available financial incentives.

### Background

The Zimmermann family was concerned about a failing heating and air conditioning system and they knew that they needed to replace their old equipment. Gene Zimmermann, a scientist, wanted data on his home’s current performance to make the most informed decisions about what home improvements would make a difference in comfort and energy bills. He wanted to make sure that he got the best equipment and that it was sized correctly, as well as to see if there were some simple steps his family could take to improve the home’s energy efficiency.

Mr. Zimmermann discovered Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, sponsored by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program™. Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is a program that helps homeowners find accredited contractors who can deliver advanced energy efficiency improvements to homes in order to save money, energy and the environment. Under the program, homes of any style or size can be improved to reduce energy use and decrease costs by up to 30 percent.



## Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Zimmermann Residence



Home Performance with ENERGY STAR helped the Zimmermanns reduce air loss by 70 percent.

### Challenge

GeoGenix of Rumson, New Jersey is a contractor participating in the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program. Accredited by the Building Performance Institute (BPI), GeoGenix completed a Home Performance assessment of the Zimmermann residence and recommended a plan to help the family find the best HVAC equipment and reduce their energy use. The assessment evaluated the whole home using building performance techniques and technology. Contractors participating in Home Performance with ENERGY STAR are trained to use advanced diagnostic equipment that can include a blower door test to measure air infiltration, an infrared camera to detect inadequate insulation, a smoke pen to identify drafts and leaky ducts, and a carbon monoxide detector to make sure combustion gases are not leaking into the home.

### Solution

After completing the assessment, the contractor provided the homeowner with a report of the results and a recommended plan of action that included sealed wall cavities, improved attic insulation, sealed ducts, added duct insulation and a high-efficiency heat pump that uses electricity to heat the home in the winter and cool it in the summer.

### Benefits

The family immediately noticed a dramatic improvement in the comfort of their home. Testing showed that air loss was decreased by 70 percent. The Zimmermanns are now saving 30 percent a year on their utility bills.

### Financial Incentives

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program sponsors Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, which offers:

- Low-interest financing options
- Cash-back incentives of up to 50 percent on energy efficient installed measures

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To learn more about New Jersey's Clean Energy Program,  
and to find out why **clean energy is smart business**, go to [NJCleanEnergy.com](http://NJCleanEnergy.com).

