

Al Stirpe
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 127

7293 Buckley Road, Suite 201 | N. Syracuse, NY 13212 | 315-452-1115 | StirpeA@assembly.state.ny.us | [@StirpeAl](https://twitter.com/StirpeAl)

Dear Neighbor,

With the holidays upon us we are all looking to save some money. Inside are some tips and information on winterizing your home and programs to improve energy efficiency – **you may even qualify for upgrades at no cost to you.**

Too many families continue to do more with less. That's why I'm working for results that will help Central New York families find prosperity right here – because no one should have to leave their home to secure a bright future.

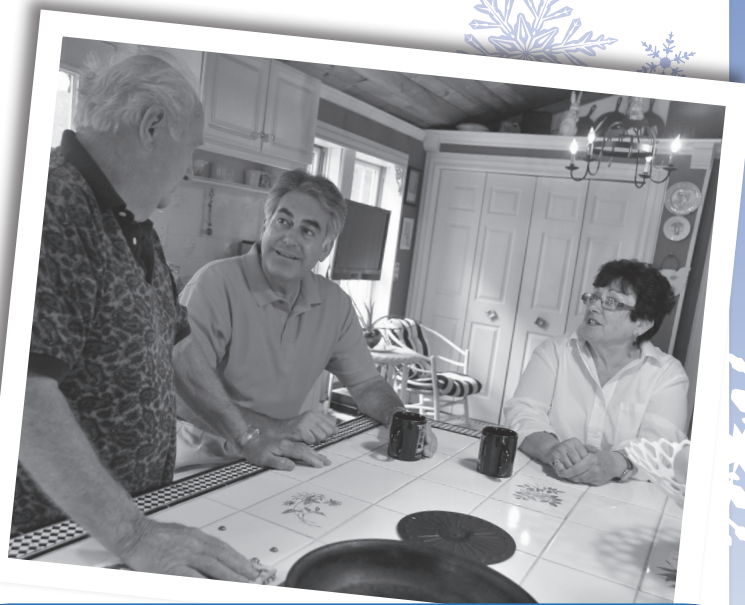
We've made progress; we **locked in the lowest middle-class tax rate** in 60 years, **cut an energy tax** to help lower utility bills, and made sure our schools are better funded so we can hold the line on property taxes.

We're working to save an estimated \$50 million in taxpayers' money from fraud and waste in the STAR program by asking New Yorkers to re-register their Basic STAR exemption. **Don't forget to re-register – go to tax.ny.gov or call 518-457-2036 to complete the quick process.**

I want to wish you and yours a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. As always, if I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Assemblyman
Al Stirpe



helping you
keep more of your
hard-earned money

Don't lose your
Basic STAR
exemption

Deadline to register:
Dec. 31!

go to tax.ny.gov for more information

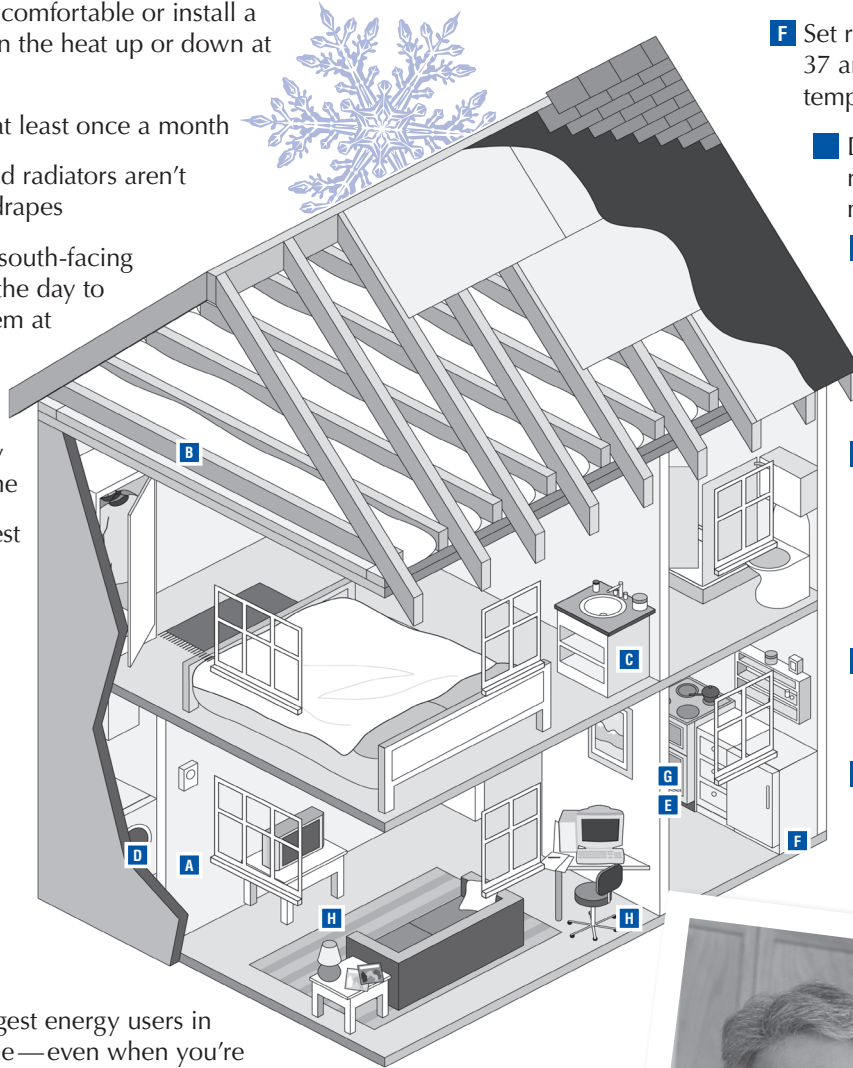
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Tips to make your home energy efficient

Home Heating

For most people, the heating system is the single-largest energy user in the home. Home heating alone often accounts for more than 60 percent of your total energy bill. To save money and energy:

- A** Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable or install a programmable thermostat to turn the heat up or down at pre-set times
- B** Clean or replace furnace filters at least once a month
- C** Be certain baseboard heaters and radiators aren't blocked by furniture, carpet or drapes
- D** Keep drapes and shades on the south-facing side of your home open during the day to allow sunlight to enter; close them at night to reduce the chill
- E** Add insulation, caulk and weather-stripping around doors, windows and outlets to disallow warm air from leaving your home
- F** Insulate your attic—it's the easiest place to insulate and you'll yield tremendous energy savings
- G** Reverse the direction of ceiling-fan blades to push warm air down into the room
- H** Place heat-resistant reflectors between radiators and walls—this will allow the room, and not the wall, to be heated



Appliances

Inefficient appliances often waste more energy—and money—than we realize. After home and water heating, your appliances are the largest energy cost you have.

- F** Set refrigerator temperatures between 37 and 40 degrees and freezer temperatures at 5 degrees
- G** Defrost freezers and refrigerators regularly to allow the unit to be more energy efficient
- H** Look for blue flames in natural-gas appliances; yellow flames indicate the gas is burning inefficiently. Consult the manufacturer or your local utility if an adjustment is needed
- I** Unplug large appliances, including TVs, computers, DVD players and the like when not in use because electricity is still being used even when the appliance is turned off
- J** Buy appliances with the ENERGY STAR label as they can use up to 50 percent less energy
- K** Turn lights off when not in use—even for 5 minutes—and your electricity bill will be lowered

Water

Your water heater is one of the biggest energy users in the house. It heats water all the time—even when you're not using water.

- C** Make sure faucets are completely off
- D** Use water-conserving shower heads and faucet aerators
- E** Lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees
- F** Wash clothes in the cold-water cycle
- G** Use the energy-saving settings on your dishwasher and washing machine
- H** Cover pans when boiling water—it's faster and will use less energy



Upgrading to energy efficient products is easy and could be free!

Home performance with ENERGY STAR®

Improve your home and save money on energy costs by upgrading to energy efficient appliances. ENERGY STAR® offers benefits and incentives to help make energy efficiency improvements affordable.

Energy STAR® upgrades can include:

- Attic and wall insulation
- Upgraded or replaced windows or doors
- Thermostat replacement or relocation
- High-efficiency furnaces
- High-efficiency, tankless water heaters

How the program works:

- A free or reduced-cost home energy assessment can determine how your home is wasting energy and money. Find a participating contractor at nyserda.energysavvy.com/contractors.
- Work with your contractor to choose the energy efficient upgrades that best fit your needs and budget.
- Moving forward with recommended upgrades will qualify you for a 10 percent cash-back incentive, and you may qualify for low-interest financing to help you save on upgrade costs. Visit tinyurl.com/EnergyStarFinancing or call 888-782-7937 to see if you qualify.

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