

# Innovative Outstanding Weatherization Assistance News

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From all of us in the  
Weatherization Bureau  
in Des Moines

Jim, Gwen, Mark, Marcia,  
Chris, Mike and Rosemary

## Welcome

Welcome to the January 2008  
edition of the **IOWAN**

We hope your winter has gone well and that you have stayed warm and safe. We look forward to working with you this year and hope you will contribute articles, tips, tricks, and extreme photos to the upcoming issues. You are a wealth of information that we would like to tap into! Send your ideas to [Christine.Taylor@iowa.gov](mailto:Christine.Taylor@iowa.gov). Your contributions will be published in a future issue.

**Program Notices**—If you are looking for official changes to the *Policy and Procedures* or *Work Standards* manuals, be sure to check out the Members Only section of the Weatherization website for Program Notices. There are currently four notices listed on the site.

**Manuals**—Did you know all of the Weatherization manuals are on the website? Yes, in the Members Only section. Weatherization manuals include: *Policy and Procedures*, *Works Standards*, *General Appendix*, *WAMS*, and the *NEAT Audit*.

## Statistics

<u>Item</u>	<u>*QTRLY</u>	<u>**YTD</u>
Houses worked on	350	1204
Completions	317	1102
Closed - Incomplete	33	104
Owner-occupied	302	1049
Rentals	48	157
Elderly-occupied	123	399
Disabled-occupied	163	538
Young child	61	226
Furnace replacements	168	548
Refrigerator replacements	115	375
Freezer replacements	46	158
Average cost per home	\$6,969	\$6,592

Totals for all agencies combined  
\*QTRLY (September 2007—October 2007)  
\*\* YTD (April 2007—October 2007)

## Agency Spotlight—Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation's (NEICAC) Weatherization Program recently worked on a problem home. The house was a 780 sq. ft. cement block home. The old fuel oil furnace was removed and a high-efficiency LP furnace was installed in its' place.

After installing the new furnace, the house became too wet so, an exhaust fan was installed, more return air was added to the home, and a fresh air intake was installed to the return system on the furnace.

After the work was completed; however, the client kept shutting off the exhaust fan in the bathroom. He said he did this because the fan was taking all of the heat out of the bathroom. Because he was shutting the fan off, mildew was forming on the walls and, at times, he had water running down the cold block walls. To solve the problem, a Heat Recovery Ventilator was installed; a Fantech SH 704 HRV with defrost. The

ventilator takes the air from the outside, preheats it, and circulates it throughout the duct system on the furnace. It also exhausts the old, stale air back outside. To make the connections, 4" insulated, flexible ductwork was used; one for the return side and one for the ascending side of the duct system.

—Submitted by NEICAC's Jim Perry



*"I have to redo my budget payment at the end of this year because of when your people insulated my house. It has made a very big difference in my bills. They really did a great job. I'm so pleased and I want to thank everyone very much!"*

— Northeast Iowa Client

## Agency Spotlight—Mid-Iowa Community Action

Claude Papesh of Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA), the professional home energy auditor for Energy Rated Homes of Iowa, conducted energy ratings on 265 homes in the past fiscal year to earn an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Energy Rated Homes of Iowa, a program of MICA, uses a variety of high-tech equipment and techniques to determine the energy efficiency of a home. Papesh uses a blower-door test, which measures the extent of leaks within a building and enters the results of that test in a computer program to consistently measure the energy efficiency of each home. This marks the third consecutive Outstanding Achievement Award for Papesh and Energy Rated Homes of Iowa.

Builders contract with Energy Rated Homes of Iowa to conduct energy audits in order to earn an Energy Star distinction

from the EPA. Homes with an Energy Star rating meet the agency's guidelines on effective insulation, high-performance windows, efficient heating and cooling equipment, home lighting, and appliances.

—Submitted by MICA's Dave DeValois



## Agency Spotlight—Operation: New View Community Action Agency

The Dubuque Weatherization Challenge took place on October 6th. Over 320 volunteers took part and 97 homes were weatherized that day. The photo below is of the members of the community partners that planned the collaborative community-wide event. From left to right: Ric Jones, Dubuque City Council; Laura Roussell, Aquila (natural gas provider); Diane Hanson, Alliant Energy (electric provider); Cindy Kohlmann, Kennedy Mall; Tom Stovall (Executive Director) and Mike Strader (Weatherization Program Manager), Operation: New View Community Action Agency.

—Submitted by New View's M. Thomas Stovall



## News

**Changes for Contractors Performing Electrical Work in Iowa**—Based on a new law, 2007 Iowa Acts, House File 897, with some exceptions, anyone practicing as an electrician in the State of Iowa will be required to be licensed by the State Electrical Examining Board. This law went into effect January 1, 2008. More information is listed below.

### Statewide Licensure of Electricians

House File 897 changes the licensure of electricians from a city-by-city basis to licensure on a statewide basis. Reciprocity with other states will be negotiated. The bill contains provisions regarding electrical inspections, licensing fees and penalties. An eleven member board is created within the State Fire Marshal's office responsible for issuing, revoking or suspending licenses. A fund is created from all licensing, registration, examination, inspections, and renewal fees and is made available to the board to cover their expenses. (HF 897, to Governor)

### Statewide Licensure of Plumbers and Mechanical Professionals

House File 908 requires licensure of workers that provide plumbing, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning services. A new plumbing and mechanical systems examining board is established within the Department of Public Health charged with adopting standards for licensure, providing for examinations, and adopting fees. Licenses will be issued for two years and reciprocity with other states will be provided. (HF 908, to Governor)

### Iowa Plumber and Mechanical Professional Licensing Act

#### Overview

The Iowa Legislature passed House File 908 during the 2008 legislative session that created a new Iowa Code Chapter 104C titled the "Iowa Plumber and Mechanical Professional Licensing Act". The legislation requires the Iowa Department of Public Health to establish and administer a plumber and mechanical professional licensing board. The legislation did not appropriate funds to allow for the start up of the board.

The legislation establishes an 11 member licensing board

and provides the board the authority to write and adopt rules to implement the licensing of plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration and hydronic systems professionals. The board members will be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

The board is required to write administrative rules on various licensing requirements, including the application process, testing, license types and fees, insurance and surety bond and license renewal requirements. Until these administrative rules are adopted and implemented the IDPH cannot begin licensing individuals or collecting licensing fees.

HF 908 is effective July 1, 2008. It is not feasible for IDPH and the licensing board to adopt rules, establish enforcement policies, establish an electronic record keeping system and begin issuing exams and licensing by this date.

During the 2008 legislative session, IDPH will work to address the challenges associated with this legislation.

—Continued on page 5

### Resources

[www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

WaterSense is a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Its mission is to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting and enhancing the market for water-efficient products and services.

[www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org](http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org)

North America's voice for water efficiency and conservation.

[www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org)

Take a virtual tour to investigate your water saving opportunities in each area of your home.

## News—Continued

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### Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How can I get a copy of HF908?

A: Visit the Iowa Legislative website at [www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us).

Q: Can I get a summary of the requirements of HF908?

A: You can download the presentation given at the informational meeting held on August 29th by visiting [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/plumbing\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/plumbing_presentation.pdf).

Q: I'm a contractor/professional impacted by this legislation and I want to become licensed. What do I need to do?

A: At this time there are no steps you can take to work towards licensure. The licensing board must adopt rules before licensure can occur.

Q: How will IDPH and the licensing board implement this legislation without funding?

A: It is not feasible for IDPH and the licensing board to implement any portion of this legislation without adequate funding to cover the start-up costs of this program..

Q: I've been working in this profession for many years. Will I have to take an exam?

A: There are provisions to allow for an exemption from examination of certain professionals. The details of this exemption will be provided by the licensing board when it writes the administrative rules.

Q: I'm interested in becoming a member of the licensing board, who do I contact?

A: An application can be found at <http://openup.iowa.gov/boards>.

Q: Am I required to become a member of a union?

A: No.

Q: What are the education and experience requirements to become licensed?

A: The licensing board will make this determination through its rulemaking process.

Q: I understand there are licensing exemptions for certain municipalities, cooperatives, etc, but state employees are not exempt. I currently work for a state agency. Am I required to become licensed?

A: The legislation does not provide for an exemption from licensure for state employees. However, this issue is being considered as a key discussion point for legislative changes during the 2008 session.

Q: How long are licenses good for?

A: Once licenses are issued they will be valid for a two-year period.

Q: How do I stay informed of future updates?

A: There are several options:

1. Check back with this web site for periodic updates.
2. Subscribe to the HF908 listserve. For information on the listserve or for instructions on being added, please send a request through our "Contact Us" page or by visiting [www.idph.state.ia.us/contact\\_us.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/contact_us.asp).
3. During the legislative session visit the Iowa Legislative web site at [www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us) and the Iowa Department of Public Health Legislative Update publications at [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/legislative\\_updates.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/legislative_updates.asp).

Q: Who can I contact with specific questions?

A: Use the "Contact Us" page [www.idph.state.ia.us/contact\\_us.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/contact_us.asp) to submit your question.

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### Tentative 2008 Program Monitoring Schedule

January	Polk County
February	West Central N Iowa
March	None Scheduled
April	Mid-Sioux

## News—Continued

—Continued from page 5

**Google Earth**—DOE and Google have collaborated to put the Department's visual database of high performance buildings online.

Google users can now use the popular Google Earth and Google SketchUp applications to access the DOE Collection. The goal is to aid in the real world design of energy efficient buildings.

The DOE Collection of High Performance Buildings is a database developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

The database is a central repository of in-depth information and data on high-performance building projects around the world. Currently, 87 buildings are listed in the collection with more added each month.

<http://sketchup.google.com/3dwarehouse/details?mid=86c57ff51e47b4a0d12cb37eeb7aaf7e>

*- Courtesy of U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*

**WAP Reauthorization**—Congress has passed two important pieces of legislation affecting the WAP. The first was the 2008 Omnibus Spending bill which provided the WAP with \$227.4 million for 2008 - \$21 million more than last year and \$83 million more than the Administration requested.

The second was the 2007 Energy Bill that reauthorized the WAP at significant higher levels for 2008 and beyond with the level reaching \$1.4 billion in 2012. While authorization levels are not appropriations, these marks again signal overwhelming support for WAP in Congress.

**2008 Contracts**—The HEAP-08, IPL-08, MEC-08, and AQU-08 contracts were recently sent to the agencies. These contracts all have a January 1, 2008 effective date. The HEAP contracts represent 15% of the amount of LIHEAP funds we have received thus far. Therefore, it is not the entire amount of HEAP funds you'll receive for 2008. When we receive the additional HEAP funds, we will amend your contracts (as we did last year).

The format and content of the HEAP Contracts (and to some degree, the utility contracts) has changed in order to be consistent with the content and format of the FaDSS and CSBG-08 contracts that you have already received. The General Terms (used to be called General Conditions) was developed by the State's Attorney General's Office. The Special Terms and Conditions (used to be called Special Conditions) has been reorganized but the content has generally remained unchanged.

There is a change in the local agency signature requirements. Again, to be consistent with the CSBG contract, we are requiring both the Board Chair and the Executive Director to sign the contracts. The Board Chair is required to sign contract amendments. However, the Chair may designate the Executive Director or other agency official to sign amendments (any such delegation of signature authority must be submitted in writing to us). The Executive Director must sign the monthly reports/funding requests. However, the Director may designate another agency official to sign these (any such delegation of signature authority must be submitted in writing to us).

Should you have any questions, contact the DCAA office.

## Commission Visits Home Being Weatherized

The **Commission on Community Action Agencies** held its November 16th meeting at Community Action of Eastern Iowa in Davenport. Following the formal meeting, the commissioners, state staff, and agency staff toured an Early Head Start facility operated by the agency and then toured a house that is being weatherized by Eastern Iowa. Eastern Iowa weatherization staff did an excellent job of explaining the house evaluation process and what improvements the agency will be doing to the house.



## Refrigerator Replacement

Recently, we have had questions regarding the methodology used in making the decision about whether a refrigerator/freezer is eligible for replacement. The method used to decide whether an appliance should be replaced is quite simple. If the annual kWh consumption of the client's appliance is higher than the replacement rating for a qualified replacement appliance, it is cost effective to replace the appliance.

The annual kWh consumption of the client's appliance is determined by first metering it for at least two (2) hours (short-term usage). The short-term usage is then converted to an annual kWh usage amount using one of two methods. The conversion can be done by using the Energy Consumption Conversion Table or it can be done by using the refrigerator program in the TI-86. The TI-86 method of converting to an annual usage may be more accurate if you have a reading for an odd amount of time, like 125 minutes or 137 minutes. The Energy Consumption Conversion Table is in intervals of ten minutes so you would need to round off your reading if the time the meter is read is not in those intervals (e.g. 120, 130, 140, etc.).

The replacement rating is a numerical rating calculated by the BART Program. A replacement rating is calculated for each different brand/model of appliances the agency uses as possible replacement appliances. The replacement rating is calculated for each of those appliances using a formula that takes into consideration the annual kWh consumption for the

appliance, the cost of the appliance, the lifetime of the appliance, the cost of electricity, plus other factors. The replacement ratings for the different brand/models of appliances are listed on the Replacement Ratings Report.

After the annual kWh consumption for the client's appliance is determined, that number is then compared to the numbers in the Rating column on the Replacement Ratings Report (those numbers are the Replacement Ratings for each appliance). Any appliance that has a Replacement Rating lower than the annual kWh consumption number (of the client's appliance) qualifies as a replacement appliance. The greater the difference between the annual kWh consumption number and the Replacement Rating, the greater the savings. (Appliances considered as replacement appliances must be acceptable to the client and the height, width, and depth of the appliance must be such that it will fit into the appropriate space in the client's home.)

This method also allows for the replacement of multiple appliances in a home. For example, two existing appliances may be replaced with one. Refer to the Refrigeration Appliance Procedures section in the General Appendix for details on this.

If you have questions on the replacement of refrigeration appliances contact the State staff.

## Questions and Answers

**Question:** When you checked our house files, you said we needed to be more careful about the statements we write in the files. Why?

**Answer:** It is imperative that everyone remember that our house files are open records to the public. Anything written in a file can essentially be "on the front of the Des Moines Register". When writing notes in files about a house, remember to de-emotionalize. In other words, do not write emotional comments, rather, write facts with unbiased, detached notations.

**Question:** I would like to purchase some equipment for our program. What do I need to do?

**Answer:** For all purchases, Section 9.00 of the *Policy and Procedures Manual*, along with your agencies' procurement procedures, must be followed. For purchases of a vehicle or equipment with a unit acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more, a Purchase Request Form must be completed by the agency and approved by the DCAA. The form is found in the Members Only section of the website. Save the form to your computer, complete the form, save it again and email it to Jim Newton at [Jim.Newton@iowa.gov](mailto:Jim.Newton@iowa.gov) for approval.

**Question:** I need more Lead Paint brochures. Who do I contact?

**Answer:** You will need to contact the Iowa Department of Public Health. Their number is on the back of the brochure.



## Service Recognition

**10 Years of Service**—Terri Tague and Royce York, both with the Weatherization Program at Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) in Marshalltown, recently celebrated 10 years with the agency.



*Terri Tague (far right), Royce York (not pictured)*

**20 Years of Service**—On Friday Dec. 7th, Diane Schatz, along with Duane Foltz and Don Forney with the Weatherization Program, were honored for 20 years of service at Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation. Recognition was made at the agencies' annual Christmas Dinner. Employees were honored for years of service at 5 year intervals.



*Don Forney , Diane Schatz, Duane Foltz*

**35 Years of Service**—Mary Ann Humpal, Executive Director of Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation, was honored for 35 years of service to the agency at their annual Christmas dinner. She was also recognized as the employee who has been with the agency the most number of years.



*Mary Ann Humpal, Scott Barnett*

**Retirement** – Mildred Behrendt, Weatherization Contracting Clerk for West Central Community Action in Harlan, will be retiring January 18th. She has worked with the weatherization program for over 14 years. She will be greatly missed, but wants to spend more time with her family.

### Tentative 2008 Fiscal Monitoring Schedule

January	South Central Iowa Community Action
February	None Scheduled
March	Mid-Iowa Community Action Polk County Red Rock Area Community Action

# Extreme Photos



*Good use of space.  
The release valve drains directly into the bath tub.*



*In case you thought all shingles were asbestos-free...This is a picture of a bundle of slate shingles found in an attic of a house NE Iowa recently completed. As you can see there really is asbestos in the shingles on that house. The shingles were made by Johns Mansfield. Before this company started making fiberglass they never made anything that did not have asbestos in it.*



*The little house looks leaky enough to be considered outside and not a separate Zone.*



## Upcoming Events

### January 2008

- TBD **MHEA Audit** training for January has been postponed.
- 16 **Evaluator Meeting** to be held at HACAP, 1515 Hawkeye Drive, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233. Meeting time is from 9:30am-3:00pm. For more information or to sign-up, contact Marcia Thompson at [Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov](mailto:Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov). Note: Sign-up is only by email.
- 23 **Evaluator Meeting** to be held at New Opportunities, 603 West 8th Street, Carroll, Iowa 51401. Meeting time is from 9:30am-3:00pm. For more information or to sign-up, contact Marcia Thompson at [Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov](mailto:Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov). Note: Sign-up is only by email.
- 30 **Evaluator Meeting** to be held at Polk County, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50313. Meeting time is from 9:30am-3:00pm. For more information or to sign-up, contact Marcia Thompson at [Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov](mailto:Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov). Note: Sign-up is only by email.

### February 2008

- TBD **Mold/Moisture/Ventilation/BTL** training to be held in February. Location to be determined. Note: Sign-up is only accepted by email to [Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov](mailto:Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov), once the training announcement has been released.
- 27 **IWAC Meeting** to be held at Polk County, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50313. Meeting time is from 9:00am-12:00pm. For more information, contact Jim Perry at [Jim@neicac.org](mailto:Jim@neicac.org).

### March 2008

*No meetings or trainings scheduled*

### April 2008

- 7—11 **ACI Home Performance Conference 2008** to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the Hilton Pittsburgh. For more information, visit [www.affordablecomfort.org](http://www.affordablecomfort.org).
- 23 **IWAC Meeting** to be held at Polk County, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50313. Meeting time is from 9:00am-12:00pm. For more information, contact Jim Perry at [Jim@neicac.org](mailto:Jim@neicac.org).

*The 2008 Training Schedule will be coming soon!*

## Speed Bumps

- The metallic cardboard used for return air panning is no longer allowed (Section 2047).
- The cost for insulation that is used for pressure point sealing is to be included in the infiltration costs in the NEAT Audit (NEAT Audit Manual).
- Air conditioners are to be included in the NEAT Audit.
- You need to make sure that you are using the correct materials and fuel cost as well as the correct weather parameter in the audit. If you are unsure of the correct costs, contact the DCAA office.
- The combustion appliance zone (CAZ) with reference to (WRT) the outside pressures are required documentation for the file. A good form to use is on page 39 of the *Work Standards*.
- Condensate line from the furnace must not terminate outside the envelope of the home and is not to be draining on the ground in the crawlspace.
- Not installing grommets in the furnace is still a problem and is a major finding. They are a part of the sealed combustion system on some furnaces.
- Some agencies are still not performing the garage leakage testing as it should be done. Mark or I can assist you over the phone if you are having problems. There is a section in the Standards on this testing (2025.02).
- Crawlspace vents need to be sealed (Section 5031.02).
- Room pressures need to be checked when there is a possibility that they could be over 3 Pascals (Section 2048.01).
- Insulation should be level and spread out to all sides and corners of the attic. If there are soffit vents, soffit vent chutes must be installed if they're not already present. (Sections 5014 and 5015).
- By-pass blocking is to be sealed (Section 4010).

***Please feel free to copy and distribute.***

### Iowa Bureau of Weatherization

Department of Human Rights  
Community Action Agency  
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

***We're on the Web!!!***  
***[www.weatherization.iowa.gov](http://www.weatherization.iowa.gov)***

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