

## LEAP SUCCESS STORY

**Tyson & Catherine Baldridge**  
**1997 3-Story Townhouse**  
**1508sf,**  
**2BR, 2.5BA**  
**Electric heat pump**  
**Charlottesville, VA**

**Projected Energy Savings:**  
**50%**





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Tyson Baldridge discovered LEAP when searching for federal rebates to help fund an old heat pump replacement. He was already conscious of his energy use and had made efforts to lower his electricity bill, but they still seemed to climb higher. The hot upstairs bedrooms during the summer were uncomfortable and another red flag. LEAP's rebates to help cover the cost of a home energy assessment solidified their decision to investigate not only a new heat pump but also where and how to reduce electrical usage. They ended up replacing an umber of appliances that were near end-of-life and doing critical air and duct sealing and insulation – all on their own. These do-it-yourselfers transformed their home into a cleaner, more comfortable, energy-saving space.

### Basic Issues Uncovered in the Home Performance Assessment:

- Blower door test showed house 80% leakier than ideal
- Attic air directly migrating behind interior party walls
- Attic insulation was below minimum building code
- Registers and rim joists poorly sealed

### Energy Improvement Measures Implemented:

- Replaced: heat pump, water heater, refrigerator, lights with dimming CFL's, bathroom fan switches with timers
- Sealed attic floor and insulated to R-50 with cellulose
- Sealed ductwork with mastic tape and register cutouts with expanding foam to prevent the loss of conditioned air in the attic
- Enclosed air handler and ductwork to remove exposure to hot attic temperatures
- Improved outdoor wall sealing, replaced missing insulation, and insulated basement rim joists



*"The guidance and financing provided by LEAP greatly facilitated the energy renovation process. The energy audit refocused my attention from just adding insulation to first reducing the draftiness of our home, which has improved the comfort in terms of both temperature and more stable humidity levels. The audit also included infrared scanning of the walls, which revealed major flaws with the insulation and air sealing of both outdoor and party walls. We feel energy conservation will have a tremendous impact on the future of this country, and want to do our part to reduce electricity consumption."*

*– Tyson Baldridge*