

LEAP SUCCESS STORY



The Atchison Family
1984 1-Story Contemporary Home
2919 ft² - 3 bd / 2.5 ba
Charlottesville, VA

Projected Energy Savings:
40%



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Michael and Carol Atchison live in a unique, contemporary one-story home. Carol is an accountant and Michael is a professor at UVA. Several factors motivated this couple to retrofit their home. One, a group of LEAP-trained interns performed a home energy review in the summer of 2011, which led them to complete a home energy assessment later. Secondly, their electric bill always came out higher compared to their neighbor despite behavioral adjustments. Third, the couple is concerned about global warming and sincerely wanted to do their part to mitigate the problem. After completing the upgrades on their home through the LEAP program, the Atchisons say their energy bills are down and the home feels more comfortable.

Summary of the Home Performance Assessment:

- The blower door test revealed the home measured 6000cfm, which is 127% higher than the Building Airflow Standard.
- Moisture issue discovered in several areas of the home, including the crawlspace due to a poor vapor barrier. In addition, humid air was being pulled in by the exhaust fan. Recommended air sealing the crawlspace and installing a thick vapor barrier.
- Gaps in insulation on the attic floor, issues with insulation around the recessed lighting, and insulation was falling off the vertical walls at the clearstory.
- Several of the ceilings in the home are tongue & groove boards allowing air leakage at the joints and cracks.

Summary of the Upgrades Completed

- Weatherseal removed the existing attic insulation that was peeling away and spray foamed the attic ceiling at the joints and cracks of the tongue & groove boards, effectively solving the air leakage problem in the attic as well.
- Applied comfort therm fiberglass insulation to crawl space and spray foam sealed joist ends and ban under the crawl space.
- Installed a heavy duty 15 Mil Viper Vapor barrier to crawl space, in order to prevent moisture from entering the home.
- Added a commercial grade de-humidifier and sprayed mold-x neutralizer to combat the moisture issue in several additional areas of the home.



"We went through with pretty much everything that was recommended and it made a big difference in the house. Our bills are way down, plus the house feels more comfortable. To be completely honest, we were doing this because we felt it was the right thing to do for the environment and did not even realize we would receive a rebate check back, let alone a sizeable check. So I really do not understand how anybody would not want to go through this process." - Michael Atchison

Contractors
on Home:

