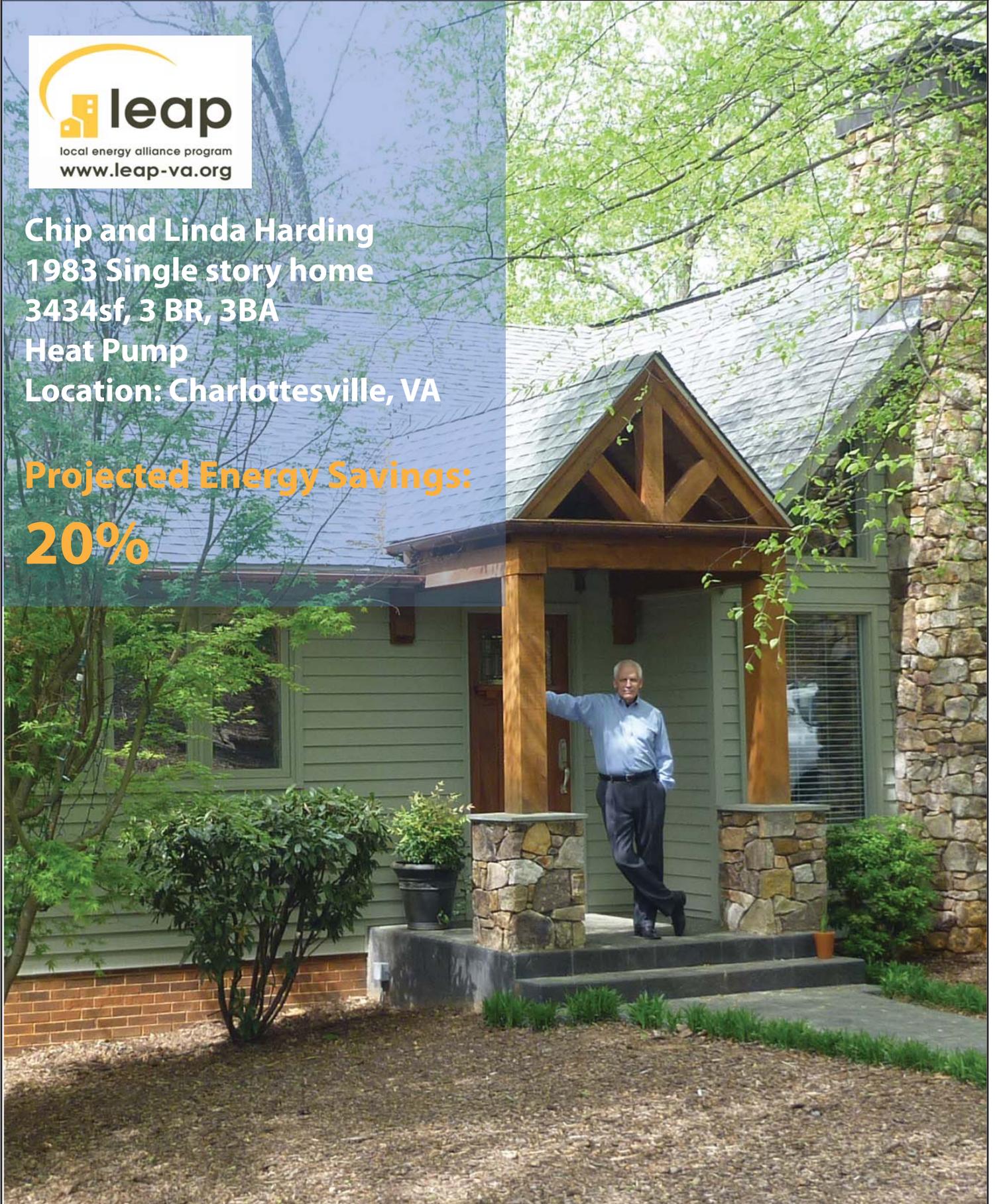


LEAP SUCCESS STORY



Chip and Linda Harding
1983 Single story home
3434sf, 3 BR, 3BA
Heat Pump
Location: Charlottesville, VA

Projected Energy Savings:
20%



LEAP SUCCESS STORY

When Albemarle County Sheriff J.E. “Chip” Harding and his wife Linda first decided to renovate their home in Pantops, they were focused largely on cosmetic improvements like granite countertops. After a Home Energy Assessment they decided to include energy efficiency in their remodel. “She was like a detective,” Harding recalls of his home energy assessor, who discovered issues like an uncovered whole house fan (like leaving a window open year round.) “Once she pointed out the problems, it was obvious. Major energy leaks were hiding in plain sight.”

Basic Issues Uncovered in the Home Performance Assessment:

- Only 8” of compressed fiberglass insulation with many voids under attic flooring
- Recessed can lights were leaking a lot of air
- The attic stairs were not air sealed or insulated
- In the basement, there was a large hole at the electrical panel connected to the garage allowing air infiltration
- The door between the house and the garage was not weather stripped

Energy Improvement Measures Implemented:

- The homeowner built a raised storage platform so 12” of blown cellulose insulation could be added to the attic floor
- Recessed can lights were boxed, air sealed, and covered in insulation
- Homeowner plans to change out the old whole house fan with a new air-tight, insulated model
- The electrical panel was sealed off from the garage
- The garage door was weather stripped so no cold drafts or car exhaust can enter the living space

Expected Benefits: 20% energy savings and air leakage reduced by 30%



“We didn’t give much thought to energy efficiency when we bought the house, but almost immediately we knew something was wrong when we got our winter heating bills. We’ve now got a house that doesn’t just look good – it feels good. And the cost savings will really add up. I’d rather be in my home enjoying a good glass of wine and filet mignon than wasting my money on high utility bills.”

– Chip Harding

Building Analyst: Key Green Energy / Contractor: Weatherseal