

## **Seven Rows of Homes Selected for Pilot Program**

All members recently received information about the 2015 Community Upgrade and the Pilot Program which is starting now to prepare for the upgrade. The Pilot Program, using seven rows of homes, will test several good building envelope and energy system improvements and correct existing deficiencies. It will tell us if the energy savings projected by energy analysis software programs are really achievable, and if costs projections are accurate.

In the summer of 2010, the Buildings Committee developed the following criteria for selecting rows of homes for the pilot program:

1. A total of seven 4-unit rows should be selected, comprised of 2 brick, 2 frame and 3 block. For the 12 block homes, six (6) should have bare block walls and six (6) covered with vinyl siding. (Block homes are over-represented because they have special wall insulation challenges.)
2. Rows should have four occupied houses, with none for sale. (Four-home rows are simpler and cheaper to test than longer rows.)
3. Ideally, all homes in the rows should have baseboard heating systems. (If homes have already been upgraded, it is harder to measure the benefits of new heat systems.)
4. Ideally, rows should have between zero (0) and no more than three (3) additions.
5. Members should not plan to move or be away for extended periods of time during the pilot program. Also, the number of persons living in the home should remain constant for the duration of the program.
6. All of the members in the row should agree to participate in the Pilot Program.

Staff sent questionnaires to members in 104 rows (58 frame, 23 block and 23 brick) to ascertain whether they wished to participate in the pilot program. While many members were interested, it was difficult to find entire rows which met the criteria and wished to participate. All of the members in 10 rows (3 frame, 4 block, and 3 brick) responded affirmatively. One frame row was not eligible since a member in that row is currently residing overseas and his unit is being rented. From the remaining list, staff selected the seven rows listed in the table below that best satisfied the criteria.

<b>Row</b>	<b>Type of Units</b>
10A-D Southway	Frame
4A-D Laurel Hill	Frame
2 A-D Woodland Way	Brick
2 A-D Westway	Brick
3A-D Crescent	Block – all 4 units are covered with vinyl siding
4E-H Crescent	Block – 2 units are covered with vinyl siding; two have bare block walls
15A-D Ridge Rd	Block – all 4 units have bare block walls

All members who responded positively to the questionnaire were contacted after rows had been selected. Meetings with the Pilot Program rows began in October. Energy audits were conducted and monitoring devices placed in the homes in November. Any changes to the exterior of the home will happen next summer or fall.