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## **OERB conducts Extreme Energy Makeover for OKC woman**

### **Oil and natural gas industry helps keep homes warm, educate public about energy efficiency**

Put together a cold, drafty home; an Oklahoman in need; and the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board and what do you get? The answer is an *Extreme Energy Makeover*.

In partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the OERB performed an *Extreme Energy Makeover* on November 20 for an Oklahoma City homeowner in need of weatherization assistance. In addition to making the home warmer during the winter season and cooler during the summer season, the makeover will help lower utility bills up to 30 percent.

“It’s wonderful that the OERB is helping me make my home warmer,” said homeowner Minnie Jones. “It’s also great that I can look forward to lower bills. With Thanksgiving and Christmas around the corner, this has been a wonderful gift to my family and me.”

During the makeover, a weatherization crew from the Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City installed insulation, weather stripping, attic vents, compact fluorescent light bulbs, a new door and a hot water tank insulation blanket. Weatherization expert Matt Van Horn, who coordinates the community action agency’s weatherization program, said that first and foremost, weatherization reduces energy bills for homeowners.

“Weatherization also helps ensure the comfort, health and safety of a home,” Van Horn said. “With reduced bills and increased comfort, weatherization gives homeowners in need an overall peace of mind.”

Since 2005, the OERB has contributed \$1.5 million to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce’s Weatherization Assistance Program, through which community action agencies statewide perform energy efficiency services free of charge for qualifying, low-income households. These services include weather stripping doors, installing proper insulation, replacing windows and other measures that help save homeowners energy and money.

Garcia Tarver, project manager for the Weatherization Assistance Program, said OERB’s contribution has increased the number of homes weatherized by 25 percent.

“The OERB has significantly increased the number of homes we can weatherize each year,” Tarver said. “Their contribution has directly led to the weatherization of an extra 600 homes statewide. In addition to increasing the

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number of homes weatherized, OERB has helped increase the amount of work we can do on each home and also allowed us to reach some homes that were in such terrible condition we did not have the resources to help them before.”

OERB Executive Director Mindy Stitt said that along with bringing awareness to the Weatherization Assistance Program, the *Extreme Energy Makeover* served as an opportunity to educate the public about energy efficiency.

“What we’re doing is a complete home energy makeover,” Stitt said. “But you don’t have to be extreme to make a difference – by taking simple steps, we can all significantly decrease our energy use and save money.”

Stitt said installing compact fluorescent light bulbs, weather stripping and a programmable thermostat are all simple, low-cost ways to save energy.

“Although energy prices have the most impact on low-income households, everyone feels the effects to some degree,” Stitt said. “Through the *Extreme Energy Makeover*, we are helping all Oklahomans learn how to be more energy efficient and save money at the same time.”

For more tips on saving energy this winter and year-round, visit the conservation section of [OERB.com](http://OERB.com). For more information on the Weatherization Assistance Program, contact the Oklahoma Department of Commerce or your local community action agency.

Created by the Oklahoma Legislature and energy industry leaders in 1993, the OERB is funded voluntarily by oil and natural gas producers and royalty owners through a one-tenth of 1 percent assessment on the sale of oil and natural gas. The OERB’s purpose is to conduct environmental restoration of orphaned and abandoned well sites and to promote energy education.

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**CAPTION: Oklahoma City homeowner Minnie Jones and her granddaughter Kyla Williams at OERB’s Extreme Energy Makeover. Jones received free energy efficiency services on her home through OERB’s contribution to the Weatherization Assistance Program.**

