



Successful Aging Institute

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October
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Class Highlights for October 2016

CLASS NAME : Ever Wanted to Write ?

Date: Oct. 06—Nov. 15
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00PM
Cost: \$65.00
Location: River Road

CLASS NAME: Felden Melt

Date: October 04—November 8th
Time: 11:00 AM—12:00 PM
Cost: Free
Location: Willamette Oaks

CLASS NAME: Taking Control: Retirement Planning Symposium

Date: October 04 - October 18th
Time: 4:00 PM—6:00 PM
Cost: \$ 79.00
Location: Crescent Park Sr. Living

CLASS NAME: Authentic Italian Pasta

Date: October 23rd
Time: 1:00 PM—5:00 PM
Cost: \$89.00
Location: Cook's Pots & Tabletops

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Autumn is here and winter is coming!

This is the time of year when morning's start feeling chilly, almost every night football is on, and pumpkin spiced-everything is on sale.

It is time to think about weatherizing for the upcoming seasons to help create an efficient and comfortable home.

If you aren't sure what your house might need to be energy efficient, you can do an energy audit either using a professional service or using the below **DIY checklist**. Below is a home inspection checklist that will point out where and how you could be losing heat and how best to fix it. While a professional home energy audit is the best way to determine where your home is losing energy and where you can save, you can conduct your own simple but diligent walk-through and spot many problems in any type of house.

Locate Air Leaks:

Visual Inspection

On the outside of your house, inspect all areas where two different building materials meet, including:

- All exterior corners
- Outdoor water faucets
- Where siding and chimneys meet
- Areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding meet.

Inside your home, inspect around the following areas for any cracks and gaps that could cause air leaks:

- Electrical outlets
- Switch plates
- Door and window frames

- Electrical and gas service entrances
- Baseboards
- Weather stripping around doors
- Fireplace dampers
- Attic hatches
- Wall- or window-mounted air conditioners.
- Cable TV and phone lines
- Where dryer vents pass through walls
- Vents and fans.

Also look for gaps around pipes and wires, foundation seals, and mail slots. Check to see if the caulking and weather stripping are applied properly, leaving no gaps or cracks, and are in good condition. Check the exterior caulking around doors and windows, and see whether exterior storm doors and primary doors seal tightly.

Inspect windows and doors for air leaks. See if you can rattle them, since movement means possible air leaks. If you can see daylight around a door or window frame, then the door or window leaks. You can usually seal these leaks by caulking or weather-stripping them.

Check the storm windows to see if they fit and are not broken. You may also wish to consider replacing your old windows and doors with newer, high-performance ones. If new factory-made doors or windows are too costly, you can install low-cost plastic sheets over the windows.

Other air-leak detection methods include the following:

- Shining flashlight at night over all potential gaps while a partner observes the house from outside. Large cracks will show up as rays of light. Not a good way to detect small cracks.

Shut a door or window on a dollar bill. If you can pull the dollar bill out without it dragging, you're losing energy.

Consider Ventilation:

When sealing any home, you must always be aware of the danger of indoor air pollution and combustion appliance "backdrafts." Backdrafting is when the various combustion appliances and exhaust fans in the home compete for air. An exhaust fan may pull the combustion gases back into the living space. This can obviously create a very dangerous and unhealthy situation in the home.

In homes where a fuel is burned (i.e., natural gas, fuel oil, propane, or wood) for heating, be certain the appliance has an adequate air supply. Generally, one square inch of vent opening is required for each 1,000 Btu of appliance input heat. Burn marks or soot around the appliance burner or at the vent collar, or visible smoke anywhere in the utility room while the appliance is operating, indicate poor draft. When in doubt, contact your local utility company, energy professional, or ventilation contractor.

Check Insulation:

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be very large if the insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum. When your house was built, the builder likely installed the amount of insulation recommended at that time.

While you are inspecting/checking the insulation, make sure that the attic vents are not blocked by insulation. You should also seal any electrical boxes in the ceiling with flexible caulk.

Your water heater, hot water pipes, and furnace ducts should all be insulated.

Inspect Heating and Cooling Equipment:

Inspect heating and cooling equipment annually, or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, check your filters and replace them as needed. Generally, you should change them about once every month or two, especially during periods of high usage. Have a professional check and clean your equipment once a year.

Lighting:

Energy for lighting accounts for about 10% of your electric bill. Examine the light bulbs in your house and consider replacing inefficient bulbs with a more efficient choice, such as energy-saving incandescent, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), or light-emitting diodes (LEDs). When shopping for bulbs, consider the brightness of the bulbs you want and look for lumens and the Lighting Facts label. Your electric utility may offer rebates or other incentives for purchasing energy-efficient lamps. Also look for ways to use controls such as sensors, dimmers, or timers to reduce lighting use.

Appliances and Electronics:

Consider strategies for reducing the energy use of your appliances and electronics.

You might consider the following:

- Unplugging an item when it is not in use to prevent phantom loads
- Changing the settings or using the item less often

Purchasing a new, more efficient product.

YOUR WHOLE-HOUSE PLAN

After you know where your home is losing energy, make a plan by asking yourself a few questions:

- How much money do you spend on energy?
- Where are your greatest energy losses?
- How long will it take for an investment in energy efficiency to pay for itself in energy cost savings?
- Do the energy-saving measures provide additional benefits that are important to you—for example, increased comfort from installing double-paned, efficient windows?
- How long do you plan to own your current home?
- Can you do the job yourself or do you need a contractor?
- What is your budget?
- How much time do you have for maintenance and repairs?
- Are you eligible for weatherization assistance?

How to Determine if You Are Eligible for Weatherization Assistance:

To be eligible for the weatherization assistance program, a household's income must be at or below

Household Unit Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income
1	\$23,760	\$1,980.00
2	\$32,040	\$2,670.00
3	\$40,320	\$3,360.00
4	\$48,600	\$4,050.00
5	\$56,880	\$4,740.00
6	\$65,160	\$5,430.00
7	\$73,460	\$6,121.67
8	\$81,780	\$6,815.00
9	\$90,100	\$7,508.33
10	\$98,420	\$8,201.67
11	\$106,740	\$8,895.00
12	\$115,060	\$9,588.33
each additional member	\$8,320	\$693.33

200% of Federal Poverty Level. These income levels are based on household income and household size.

For weatherization assistance in Lane County:

Housing Authority & Community Services Agency (HASCA)

541.682.3999

177 Day Island Rd Eugene, Or. 97401

<http://www.hasca.org/content/weatherization>

<http://www.energy.gov/eere/wipo/where-apply-weatherization-assistance>

<http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/Pages/weatherization-oregon-income-guidelines.aspx>

http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/Pages/weatherization_agency_service_counties_regions.aspx

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Thank you, for taking the time to read our newsletter.

We welcome your input at sai-eneews@lanecc.edu