

# Colorado Better Buildings Initiative



*Challenges, Innovation, Successes, Lessons*

# What is the Better Buildings Initiative?

- To create successful models of energy-efficiency programs that can be rolled out on a national basis.
- “The aim of the Retrofit Ramp-Up program is to jump start an industry that makes energy-efficiency savings easy to access and available to everyone. By encouraging partnerships between local governments and effective private enterprises, we hope tune-ups for buildings will become as accepted as tune-ups for cars. These efforts will save Americans millions of dollars, reduce carbon pollution and create new green jobs.” – (U.S. Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu)



***Colorado Partners***



***Customized Programs Help Energy  
Efficiency Rise in Three Colorado Counties***

Awarded jointly to Boulder, Garfield, and  
Denver Counties



***Three Resort Communities in Colorado Get  
Smart With Energy Upgrades***

Awarded to Pitkin, Eagle, and Gunnison  
Counties



Grant funding? Isn't that free money? So easy!





Ok, so what is so different?



# And, are they successful?



## Case Study: Greg and Gayle Shugars Save Money to Make Money!

### Findings After Assessment

*"So many people think to themselves, 'I need to make more money.' Well, sometimes the best way to do that is to save money - on things like energy for example."  
—Greg Shugars.*

Greg and Gayle Shugars recently worked with Energy Smart to assess their home. The Shugars have paid attention, systematically, to their home energy use for the 20+ years since the home was built in 1989. "We can make, and have made, many changes that have had absolutely no negative impact on our lifestyle," said Shugars, a self-proclaimed "transportologist" (shuttle bus driver) with the Town of Snowmass Village Transportation Department.



*Sun Gold cherry tomatoes, elegant flowers and plants nestle invitingly around the property. The Shugars have maintained their investment through diligent care and attention to the property. Energy management is part of this care.*

When Rich Backe, an energy analyst and subcontractor to Energy Smart, visited the Shugars' home, he installed programmable thermostats, water pipe insulation and, in conjunction with a blower door pressure test, provided a comprehensive home assessment. "This home assessment is a home reference guide, not just an audit report," said Shugars, holding the sixteen-page report covered with highlighting and his notes. The report contains a Top 10 list of measures on which the Shugars' family could focus for energy savings.

### Energy Plan of Action

The family refrigerator is one such place to focus: it is over 20 years old and uses nearly 2000 KW per year. A newer model, which would qualify for several rebates from the Community Office for Resource Efficiency and Holy Cross Energy, would use only 500 KW per year. The family is researching models and anticipated costs to replace the refrigerator and may do so this year.

### Do It Yourself Projects Pay

Shugars took the following steps himself to save energy:

- Added insulation pads behind every light switch and wall outlet in the house: approximately 70 switches and outlets!

[www.EnergySmartColorado.com](http://www.EnergySmartColorado.com)

# Or replicable?



# Stay Tuned!



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