



## Cozy and Quiet: Insulation Adds Comfort to Local Home



When Tammy Treptow moved into her story and a half home in St. Paul, she noticed that it was cold in the winter and hot in the summer. A chance visit by the Neighborhood Energy Connection made her take action to find a solution.

"They stopped by and were offering information about audits," explains Treptow. "I signed up for one and learned a lot about the heating and cooling of my home."

She went to Xcel Energy's web site to find a contractor and made several calls. She ended up choosing Houle Insulation.

"We've worked with Houle for years due to the quality of their work and their commitment to our shared customers. In addition, they hold the proper certification which allows us to give rebates to our customers," says Shari Kelley, Xcel Energy program manager.

BPI GoldStar Contractors like Houle conduct a comprehensive energy audit to find problems, then prescribe and prioritize improvements that make the home's system function at its best. The goal is to help improve the comfort, health, safety, durability and energy efficiency of existing homes.

"This requirement ensures that the work will be done correctly and help the homeowner qualify for money-saving rebates," says Kelley. "If your home doesn't have adequate insulation, you may be losing up to 25 percent of your heating or cooling energy."

### Installing insulation

The audit of Treptow's home revealed that there was no insulation in the attic.

According to ENERGY STAR®, a better insulated home is more energy efficient, comfortable and quiet. It will save the homeowner money on utility bills for years to come.

The Houle representative explained Treptow's options to her and made sure she knew about Xcel Energy rebates of up to 30 percent of the total installed costs of the project.

**Sealing leaks and adding insulation can improve the overall comfort of your home and help to fix many of these common problems:**

- Reduced noise from outside
- Less pollen, dust and insects (or pests) entering your home
- Better humidity control
- Lower chance for ice dams on the roof/eaves in snowy climates

Source: EnergyStar.gov



**Qualifying Xcel Energy rebates reduce the costs of a BPI certified insulation renovation.**

As an added bonus, insulation typically pays for itself in reduced energy bills over the course of five to six years.

"The Houle representative explained R-value to me as well as how they were going to seal air leaks around plumbing pipes, vents, lights and insulate the entire attic with cellulose so there wouldn't be any holes," she says. "Of course the rebate was a nice bonus."

Treptow was impressed with the professionalism of the crew and the speed of the work.

"Houle took care of everything," she says. "They completed the paperwork, submitted the rebate application for me and the check came really fast."

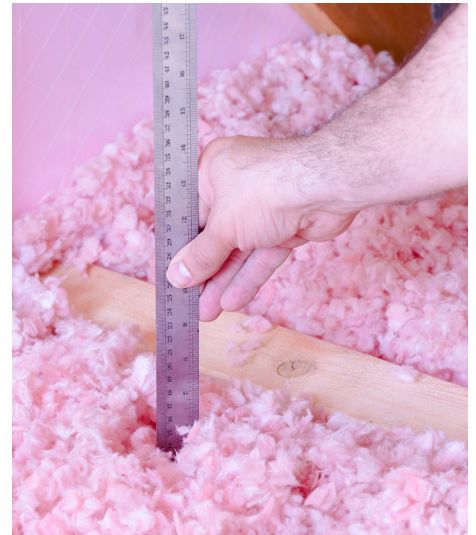
"Customers who work with us can feel confident that we've been vetted and will also help them get their rebate dollars to offset the cost of the equipment," says Kari Olson, co-owner of Houle Insulation.

### Quieter, more comfortable

The work was completed in July and Treptow says she noticed changes right away.

"It seemed cooler during the summer and it's definitely quieter now in my home," she says.

She's anxious to see how her bills compare now that the home has proper insulation but will enjoy her new, more comfortable home in the meantime.



For more about Xcel Energy's insulation rebate program, please visit [xcelenergy.com](https://www.xcelenergy.com).