

## Firm can find energy leaks in your home

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By Adam Bednar

As electricity rates skyrocket and concerns about the environment grow, a Waverly company wants to be on the ground floor of a new market to make homes and other buildings more energy-efficient.

If you combined every air-leaking crack and hole in the average house, it would be like having a 5 1/2-foot hole, said Frank Lee, director of energy efficiency for TerraLogos Green Home Service Inc.

"We can't afford to let the energy float off into the sky, and whoever can stop it can make a lot of money," Lee said.



Performing a Blower Door Test

TerraLogos, along with Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. and Catonsville-based Brennan + Company Architects, which specializes in designs that have a limited environmental impact, made separate presentations to the Wyman Park Neighborhood Association's "green" subcommittee last month.

The purpose of the presentations was to educate the Wyman Park community about energy efficiency, subcommittee chair Paddy Watson said. The association started the subcommittee after it received requests for information regarding tax credits for the use of solar energy, she said.

The subcommittee holds events year-round on environmental issues for Wyman Park residents, Watson said.

TerraLogos, 1100 E. 33rd St., provides homeowners with an analysis of how their homes are using energy and offers plans to make homes more efficient.

The company uses techniques such as their "blower door infiltration test," starting at \$495, which involves hooking a blower to a sealed front door and sucking all the air out of a house to detect where air is leaking into the house. An infrared camera allows inspectors for TerraLogos to see areas that are missing insulation or to find cold air pathways.

The company also has developed a sustainable contractors' list of those able to handle work recommended to make a home more energy-efficient.

"We can now go back to your house and treat it like a patient," Lee said.

TerraLogos operates throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area and has performed about 150 inspections since it opened last year, Lee said.

Lee and business partner Peter Van Buren, director of green energy for the company, also are trying to address the myth that just because a house isn't old means it is energy efficient.

"There's not a single house we went to that didn't have a serious issue," Lee said.

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