

Durham Community Land Trustees  
Durham, NC  
West End Weatherization Project  
Budget: \$3,000



[Durham Community Land Trustees](#) (DCLT), a NeighborWorks organization in Durham, North Carolina, is promoting energy efficiency in the city's West End neighborhood by educating residents about easy ways to reduce their energy bills.

DCLT and partner organization [Clean Energy Durham](#) collaborated to train 10 West End residents about how energy is consumed in the home and consequent ways to conserve resources. This summer, those 10 volunteers are going door to door to demonstrate to their neighbors how energy efficiency impacts their lives.

At each house, team members present a breakdown of a typical home's energy consumption, and they give residents simple strategies to conserve energy within each usage category. As an initial energy-saving measure, the team gives residents four compact fluorescent light bulbs and demonstrates how the bulbs save energy. The team also addresses high-priority energy leaks with caulking and weather stripping.

DCLT Executive Director Selina Mack says the team is "focusing on smaller, less obvious ways to conserve energy such as adjusting the temperature on hot water heaters. It's the low-cost, high-impact strategies that interest residents because many are not aware of the benefits associated with such simple measures."

The team also uses testing kits to show homeowners how much energy their appliances are using. Mack says residents are particularly shocked by how much "phantom energy" is wasted while unused appliances remain plugged in.

Following the initial demonstration, the team invites each household to participate in an energy monitoring program, which tracks the energy saved by their weatherization efforts and provides residents with further instructions about how to read their energy bills. So far, about one-third of the visited households have chosen to participate in the program.