

## Eastport Energy Committee report

12 Nov. 2014

Dear Eastport City Councilors,

The team from Maine Thermal Energy Services will be doing two large attic insulation jobs here in Eastport 12 and 13 Nov. for two homes that participated in the Affordable Heat Consortium audit process. Two other attic blown-in cellulose insulation jobs were completed last month, along with several heat pump installations, etc. So by hook and by crook, savings for this winter are taking shape. In general, we are seeing 1:3 dollar leverage for investments in home heating retrofit in Eastport.

Energy Committee members Asher Woodworth and Jon Calame attended the Island Institute's energy conference in Portland last week, and we heard about how other isolated communities in rural Maine are approaching the challenge of affordable heat. In a nutshell, they pay the most so they are the most assertive and creative with regard to alternatives. I think Eastport too falls in this category.

In January we will host a graduate student intern from Harvard's Graduate School of Design and the Energy lab there. He will create a monitoring protocol to measure the savings generated by the retrofit work we have completed this summer.

The most recent findings and output of the Affordable Heat Consortium project can be found online here, just FYI:

<https://sites.google.com/site/affordableheatconsortium/>

We recently applied for continuing grant funding from the Maine Technology Institute. If we are successful with this application, our efforts will continue after this winter. In our report to MTI, we noted that:

Our general finding was not surprising: many people want to learn about their options, and are ready to invest significant amounts in a retrofit project, if they have confidence in the information and strategy that underlie it. In this case, the AHC heat coaches satisfied those requirements and, in the process, **leveraged \$3.30 of investment and incentive for each dollar of matching project money across all audit and retrofit projects it coordinated** during the demonstration phase now ending. (The AHC project budget invested a total of \$15,900 in cash for prototype residential audits and retrofits, which had a total value of approximately \$53,100.) We believe it is safe to assume that \$0 would have been invested in heating efficiency measures by these same property owners during the same period without AHC encouragement, collaboration and coordination.

The Energy Committee will continue to collaborate with the Affordable Heat Consortium and the City of Eastport to improve access to better heating options to Eastport residents and business owners.