

Draft-Proofing Work Parties

A How-To Guide for Community Groups



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What is EOS Eco-Energy?

EOS is an environmental not-for-profit organization based in Sackville, NB. Since 2004 it has been helping local communities in the Tantramar Region and beyond be more sustainable and reduce and adapt to climate change. EOS focuses on innovative community-based solutions to climate change and promotes energy efficiency, renewable energy, eco-friendly transportation, healthy watersheds, flood risk reduction and more! Find out more about EOS and all that we offer at www.eosecoenergy.com.

What is a draft-proofing work party?

Draft-proofing work parties involve:

- A low-income homeowner inviting their friends and neighbours over for a 3 hour party.
- The lead community organization (like EOS) brings the air sealing materials, tools and party food.
- The organization partners with a licenced home energy evaluator who installs a blower door test unit to measure airflow before, during and after the party.
- The evaluator and EOS staff teach the homeowners and their guests where to look for leaks, which are most important to seal, and how to do the work.
- During the three-hour party, everyone works together to draft-proof the home and also enjoys some party food in a fun atmosphere. A sense of community is built and skills are learned. Guests



can then go back to their own homes to apply what they learned at the party so they too save energy and money.

- EOS obtained this innovative idea from Reep Green Solutions of Waterloo, Ontario. Find out more about Reep at www.reepgreen.ca.

Why organize draft-proofing work parties in your community?

One of the largest sources of emissions that contribute to climate change is from the residential sector. Draft-proofing is a relatively easy and simple activity that is cost effective. The cheapest energy is the energy that isn't used. So, by working for a few hours to seal air leaks, significant energy and cost savings can be realized. Plus, it makes homes much more comfortable and resilient against increasingly severe wind storms. After a three-hour party, drafts are often reduced by an average of about 15% and annual emissions are reduced by about 2.5 tonnes. Beyond the cost, energy and emissions savings of draft-proofing, the work parties are a fun way to build skills in your community. People come together to learn and make a difference. Draft-proofing work parties have been compared to old-fashioned barn raisings!

How to organize a draft-proofing work party program in 10 easy steps!

It's easy to organize draft-proofing work parties in your community. Just follow these 10 easy steps to success:

1. Obtain funding or sponsorships

To allow you to organize free parties for low-income residents you could apply for funding from government organizations, charitable foundations, and other granting agencies. For higher income homeowners, you could charge a fee that would cover all materials, staff time, energy evaluator, etc.

2. Find a licenced home energy evaluator in your region

To find a licenced home energy evaluator in your area, visit Natural Resources Canada's website to search for approved service organizations:

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/residential/personal/home-improvement/service/contact-advisors.cfm>.

3. Develop an application or registration form

Create a registration form. If you have limited funding, it could be considered an application form instead. Use it to select homeowners most in need. The form should ask for basic information about the house or building and information on the homeowner (eg. to make sure they qualify for a low-income program if that is what you want). See the appendix for a sample registration form.

4. Create promotional materials

Now it is time to promote your draft-proofing work party program. Use all avenues to get the word out and think about your clientele. Create posters, videos, social media posting, hashtags, etc.. write articles for local newspapers and send out press releases. Partner with churches, community centres, food banks, etc. to help get the word out too lower income homeowners. Keep the messaging simple and easy to understand.



5. Schedule parties

Review applications or registration forms and make sure candidates meet all your qualifications (lives in the region, income level or in need, drafty home, etc.). Then schedule the party and find a mutually agreeable time that suits you, the homeowner(s) and energy evaluator. If your party is in the winter, perhaps select a backup storm date too and make sure you have everyone's phone numbers in case the weather changes and the party must be postponed at the last minute.

6. Invite party guests

Depending on the size of the house and the amount of work to do, be sure to have 3 to 10 people attend the party. Have your host (homeowner) gather up their friends, family, neighbours, etc. If they cannot find enough people, that's okay. Be sure to offer volunteers. This is a great volunteer opportunity for your community! This is one way the parties help to build community inclusion. New friendships are made fast when people work and eat together at a work party!

A Reminder about Appropriate Clothing

Be sure that everyone knows to wear old clothes and warm layers. The work can get dirty and spray foam does not come out of clothes. With the blower door on, all heat is turned off so the homes can get cold. Also wear protective dust masks and gloves when needed.



7. Purchase materials, tools and party food

With the party date set and guests/volunteers invited, purchase the air sealing materials, tools and party food. If you are planning many parties, it is easier to buy materials in bulk ahead of time. This will save time and cost. Your local hardware store might give you some discounts or a large contractor rate too. Try to support local businesses whenever possible. Here are some handy shopping lists:



Party Food - Choose healthy, local foods and finger foods

- Apples, bananas, fruit tray or vegetable tray, etc.
- Small muffins, cookies, cheese and crackers, or veggie chips, etc.
- Apple cider or other local juice
- Tea, coffee, milk and sugar
- Set up reusable mugs and glasses
- Napkins
- Coffee pot, tea kettle

Air Sealing Materials

- Tubes of caulking (clear)
- High temperature caulking (for leaks around chimneys, etc.)
- Cans of spray foam
- Window kits (plastic film and double-sided tape)
- Plastic weather stripping for doors and door sweeps
- Roles of foam strips for sealing windows and larger gaps
- Plastic weather stripping for sealing window gaps
- Rigid foam boards (1 inch and 2 inch thicknesses)
- Heaving plastic sheeting (to seal large areas in basements, etc.)
- Foam gaskets (a selection of configurations for sockets and switches)
- And keep an eye out for new materials and other inventions too

Tools

- 4 utility knives
- 4 sets of gloves
- Packages of dust masks
- Staple gun and staples
- 3 flashlights and/or headlamps
- 5 caulking gun and spreaders (instead of using just your fingers)
- Step ladder
- 2 pairs of scissors
- 2 measuring tapes
- 2 pairs of safety glasses
- 3 screw drivers and 1 drill
- First aid kit
- And other items as needed

8. At the party

- When you arrive for the party begin with a walk through with the host/homeowner to get your bearings.
- Have the energy evaluators set up the blower door.
- Meanwhile, have all party participants introduce themselves and have them sign waivers if needed.
- Set up party food and set out the tools and materials in a central location in the home.
- With the blower door on, everyone looks for drafts by feeling for them. The blower door draws air through the house and makes drafts much more noticeable.
- Divide up the work - a few people can do foam gaskets behind switches and sockets, a few can use caulking, some can do spray foam, some can use foam board or plastic sheeting to seal larger gaps, some can do window kits if needed.
- Teach people how to use the tools and materials.
- This will leave about 2 to 2.5 hours to do the work.
- At the end of the party, have the host and guests fill in evaluation forms to get valuable feedback for future improvements to your



program (see the Appendix for a sample evaluation form. Thank the host and guests too.

- Pack up your materials and tools (create and use a check list to make sure you have everything). Leave any leftover food with the homeowner/host.

9. Follow up

It's a good idea to follow up with each homeowner a few months later to see if they noticed any cost savings or energy savings and if they felt more comfortable in their homes. Ask for testimonials to help promote the program in the future.

10. Evaluate and report

The home energy evaluator will provide you with the emissions reduction calculations and the changes in air flow from each party. They will use a software program called Hot2000 to complete the calculations. Be sure to share these results with the homeowners too. Create a reporting table to keep track of your data (see the Appendix for a sample table). Take time to reflect on the evaluation forms, make improvements for the future and report to funders if needed. Also send out a press release to the media celebrating your successes and achievements in reducing emissions.

Thanks for hosting draft-proofing work parties! Share your successes with EOS. We'd love to hear from you. Please also let people know you got the idea from EOS Eco-Energy. Thanks!

APPENDIX

Sample Registration Form

Application to Host a Free EOS Eco-Energy Draft-Proofing Work Party

Background

EOS Eco-Energy is accepting applications from Tantramar area homeowners with lower incomes who would like to host a draft-proofing work party. Draft-proofing work parties allow a homeowner and his/her guests to learn how to seal air leaks and then work together to draft-proof the homeowner's house during a party. Parties are at no cost to the homeowners. EOS will coordinate catering for the party, and cover the cost of materials. EOS is partnering with certified energy advisors who will teach the host and guests about draft-proofing and perform a before and after blower door test to measure the improvements made. EOS has funding for 10-15 parties per year for the next three years at least and encourages many applications. EOS Eco-Energy has received funding from Eco Action (Environment and Climate Change Canada), and the Westmorland-Albert Community Inclusion Network. **Please submit your completed application form to EOS** via email (eos@nb.aibn.com), or to the EOS office at 131D Main St. PO Box 6001 Sackville, NB E4L 1G6. If you have questions, contact Amanda at eos@nb.aibn.com or 536-4487.

Application Questions

Part 1 – About you and your House

1. Your name:
2. Your address (you must live in Tantramar):
3. What is your annual household income? (Low income equals \$28,500 for one-bedroom or 1 person, \$33,500 for two-bedroom or family of 3-4, or \$40,000 for a three-bedroom or family of 4 or more). If you are just above these levels, get in touch with EOS. Please provide a copy of your most recent income tax statement or other documentation as proof.
4. Do you own your house? (If not, you must pay the heating bills and provide written permission from your landlord to allow the draft-proofing work.)
5. What is the age of your house?
6. Have you had any renovations or retrofits done over the years (insulation, new windows, etc.)?
7. What are the dimensions of your house (a rough estimate will give us an idea)?
8. How many windows do you have? Do you know their sizes, if so list approx. sizes here:
9. How many switch plates and sockets do you have on exterior walls?
10. How many exterior doors do you have?

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11. What is the style of your house (bungalow, Victorian, ranch, split level, farmhouse, etc.)?

12. What heating source(s) do you have (eg. wood, oil, heat pump, baseboards, natural gas, etc.)?

13. What wall covering do you have (eg. gyprock, wood paneling, plaster, etc.)?

Part 2 - Is your home drafty?

14. Is there condensation on the inside of your windows? Are they sweaty or tend to be dry? (not in between the panes but on the inside of your house.) Is there a lot of condensation in your bathroom after a shower or not much?

15. What does it normally cost to heat your home annually (electricity, oil, gas, pellets and/or wood)?

16. Do you have any holes or cracks in the walls, attic and/or foundation? Please explain.

Part 3 – About the Party

17. Would you be able to have about 8 friends (neighbours, family, co-workers, etc.) attend the party to learn and then help draft-proof your home? (If not, please let EOS know and we can gather volunteers to help out.) Are you okay with having friends/volunteers (non-professionals) do work on your home?

18. Is your basement accessible? How many people could fit in it (to learn about draft proofing basements)?

19. Is your attic accessible? How many people could fit in it (to learn about draft proofing an attic)?

20. Can EOS take photos at the party? Some may be used in EOS promotional materials and/or on our social media sites.

21. Could your party take place during a weekday between October and January? The party is estimated to take about 3 hours. If not, get in touch with EOS and we can choose another time.

22. Why would you like to have a draft-proofing work party at your home?

23. What is your phone number and email address (or best way to contact you)?

Thank you! Please submit your answers to EOS Eco-Energy at eos@nb.aibn.com or 131D Main St., PO Box 6001 Sackville, NB E4L 1G6.

The selected homeowners for the year will be notified shortly thereafter.

Sample evaluation form



EOS Eco-Energy Event Evaluation Form Draft-proofing Work Party

1. Please rate the following from 1 to 5.

	Did not like				Liked a lot	
	1	2	3	4	5	
Content of the talks (concepts, ideas, material covered, etc.)						
Speaker/facilitator(s)						
Refreshments						
Date/time						
Price						
The overall event experience						
Other:						

2. Answer the questions below from 1 to 5 (1 being not at all and 5 being a lot).

	Not at all				A lot	
	1	2	3	4	5	
How much did you know about draft-proofing before today?						
How much do you feel you know now?						
How likely were to draft-proof your home before today?						
How likely are you now?						

3. What had the biggest impact on you today? Why?

4. What was the most useful part of today's workshop for you? How?

5. How important is this free draft-proofing work party program to you?

Not important Very important
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

6. What else do you need to help increase the energy efficiency of your home?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More knowledge about what to do | <input type="checkbox"/> Low flow toilets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with the costs | <input type="checkbox"/> Programmable thermostat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home energy audit | <input type="checkbox"/> Home improvement skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes line |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faucet aerator | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot water tank and pipe wrap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better windows | <input type="checkbox"/> Led lights, low flow shower head |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Star appliances | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

7. What else would you like to see EOS Eco-Energy offer?

8. Please leave any other comments or questions you may have:

(Optional) Your name: _____ Tel or Email: _____

Sample Reporting Table

Party number and date	Party1	Party 2	Party3	Party 4	Party 5
Host Info (name, contact info)					
Building Info (age, size, type, address)					
Air changes before party					
Air changes after party					
% decrease in drafts					
Annual emissions before party (based on house size and heating type)					
Annual emissions after					
Annual emissions reduction					
Number of participants at party					
Notes about work done and additional work recommended					