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Ridgewood Residents Learn How To Cut Energy Costs At Fair

By: NY1 News

With the spring season, towns throughout Bergen County are holding environmental educations event. NY1's Joe Malvasio filed the following report from one such event on Saturday.

Ridgewood held a neighborhood environmental fair Saturday to teach local residents what they can do to cut down on energy costs.

Experts explained how a small infrared camera can save homeowners hundreds of dollars in energy costs. The camera identifies places in your home that are releasing wasted heat in the winter, or air conditioning in the summer.

"We all know about keeping windows shut or locking them during the winter, or turning the lights off when you leave the room, but the thing that people don't realize is the heating and cooling systems are the most energy intensive," said Ed Schwartz of Green Living Solutions.

And experts say keeping them in good working order and insulating your home, can lower your energy bills, and help the environment.

"Everything starts locally, you can have such a direct impact," said Kim Rangler-Shagin, chairperson of the environmental committee.

Kids can also easily be big contributors to a cleaner environment.

"Tell your parents not to idle the car when they pick you up from school," instructed Jacqui Riordan of Environmental Outreach. "It's actually illegal to idle your car in New Jersey for more than ten seconds. And it really bad for kids at school that are shorter than the tail pipe height."

Besides nagging their parents, kids also learned about recycling, how hybrid cars work, and how trees make a big difference in keeping the

air clean.

"Planting trees, they start out so small, and then they can become over 20-feet tall," said ten-year-old Akash.

For more information about ways to make your home more energy efficient, you can go to www.greenlivingsolutionsnj.com.

- Joe Malvasio