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Crotty Works Toward 'Greener' Orlando

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ORLANDO, Fla. -- Orange County Mayor Rich Crotty is trying to inform homeowners of a free service that can help them save money.

Crotty said he is trying to make sure people know the benefits of energy audits, WESH 2 News reported.

It's not often that a politician invites cameras to his house, but Crotty said he wants to show he practices what he preaches.

"There's my role as mayor to highlight the issue and my role as citizen to try to do the right thing," he said.

Crotty got a home audit to show where his home's seeping energy. His windows are good, appliances are fine, but he found problems with his ductwork.

Progress Energy efficiency specialist John Sears said that fixing those leaky ducts will cost Crotty \$530, but he'll recoup the savings in about a year and a half.

Progress Energy said it is pushing all customers to get free home audits -- that can expose ways to save, such as new insulation, compact florescent light bulbs and digital thermostats.

The company said it promises cash incentives now and lower bills later.

"Once it's recovered from the initial investment those are just savings in your pocket for the long term running of your home," Sears said.

"Whenever you can create a way to have a lower bill each month and do something good for the environment, it's a win-win situation," Crotty said.

Crotty said he believes if everyone invited their energy company to their home to do a home audit, residents would see a greener Orange County.

Progress Energy launched a Web site where you can get energy-saving tips and sign up for a home audit.

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Video: Crotty Talks About Energy Audits