

Sustainable Sandhills Helps Residents of Lee and Hoke Counties



On Saturday, June 19, two groups of Sustainable Sandhills staff and volunteers gathered in Lee and Hoke Counties to work on a **Conservation Assistance Project**. Sustainable Sandhills assisted needy families by offering simple energy, water and money-saving services at no cost. Volunteers replaced incandescent light bulbs with high-efficiency compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs), installed

water heater insulation blankets, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and replaced heating and air filters. These small changes lead to measurable benefits for both the environment and customer by decreasing consumption of energy and water and lowering monthly utility bills.

Sustainable Sandhills is able to offer the materials at no cost to these particular families thanks to a private donation from Mary Cathryn and Peter Murray, and donated materials from Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperative for their members in Hoke County.

Lee County

In Lee County, SS staff members Jon Parsons and Angela Dennis were joined by community volunteers George Kostrewa, Johnny Watson, Eric Dennis and Sara Harrington. After splitting into 2 teams, the group was able to complete work in 12 homes throughout the county in less than 4 hours. Participants signed up for assistance at a Sustainable Sandhills presentation at the Lee County Enrichment Center. Volunteers had a great time visiting



with residents and helping them learn how to reduce their energy costs. “What a wonderful opportunity to connect with members of the community we might not meet otherwise,” said Sara Harrington, an attorney in Lee County who also serves on the SS Board of Directors. “It was rewarding to help these folks save money and resources; especially in these tough economic times. It’s amazing what a

difference a few simple things like filters, aerators, and low-flow showerheads can make.”

Hoke County

In Hoke County, SS staff member Brenda Johnson worked with volunteers Meg Ackley and Mike Champion to make eight homes in the Raeford area more energy efficient. The volunteers distributed 62 CFLs, 9 faucet aerators, and 9 low-flow showerheads. Each of the homes will also be provided with a three-pack of HVAC replacement filters to make their heating and cooling units run more efficiently.



The volunteers were prepared to insulate hot water heaters. Unfortunately, most of the hot water heaters in the homes were older box units that could not be insulated. Since electric water heaters account for ~25% of a home’s energy bill (and older, less efficient units can account for even more), SS volunteers advised these homeowners to upgrade to more energy efficient models. These homes were identified earlier this year for Sustainable Sandhills by Hoke County Senior Services.



Sustainable Sandhills plans to continue this rewarding Conservation Assistance Project in both counties in the coming weeks and months. If you are interested in volunteering in Lee, Hoke, or one of our other 6 counties, please call or email us at info@sustainablesandhills.org. We’d love to have you join us!

