

Councilwoman Ortega Finds Comfort in Home Energy Improvements



In February of 2013 the Denver Energy Challenge contacted Councilwoman Debbie Ortega to participate in the City's residential energy program. With a late 1800's home in the Highlands, Councilwoman Ortega welcomed the opportunity to have an energy advisor visit her home and support one of Denver's programs. "It's always important to take advantage of programs when we have them at the City. It gives me the ability to speak about the program having had direct experience and knowledge with it," said Ortega.

When a homeowner chooses to participate in the Denver Energy Challenge they have the option to schedule a phone call with an advisor, or receive a home visit based on availability. Within an hour the advisor was able to take a surface level assessment of her home and sit down and talk with the Councilwoman about any concerns or questions she had related to her home's energy performance.

After her advising visit, Councilwoman Ortega's energy advisor sent an energy action plan with recommendations for improving her home's performance. Attic insulation and air

sealing were the two top recommendations to improve the home's comfort and energy efficiency. The Councilwoman needed a new roof as well and chose to add the insulation at the same time. "As a homeowner, maintenance is ongoing, so it's important to do the kinds of things that improve your home and can make a huge difference. I've already noticed a difference since my insulation was added," said Ortega.

Ortega also has an old chimney that was sealed quite some time ago, however she continued to feel drafts even with a pillow shoved up inside. Her advisor recommended a quick fix: a chimney balloon (average cost \$40), which fits neatly into the chimney to prevent drafts. "Having the right thing really makes a difference," Ortega said.

Now with winter just around the corner, the Councilwoman and her home are confident that the cold temperatures will stay outside all year long.

This winter, what can you do to make your home more comfortable and energy efficient while lowering your energy bills)? For more information and to schedule an appointment with your own energy advisor, call 720-865-5520 or visit www.DenverEnergy.org.