

# Donna Blay's Story

Wintertime in Donna and Frank Blay's all-electric, manufactured home was not a cozy experience. Participating in Idaho Power's weatherization program changed all that for this couple in Twin Falls, ID.



Donna Blay

*By Donna Blay  
Twin Falls, ID, Resident*

Before we moved here nine years ago to be close to our grandchildren, our 1906, two-story farm house in Red Oak, Iowa, cost us about \$1,000 a month to heat with propane. It could be 25 degrees below zero and that's not even factoring in the wind chill.

After moving to Idaho and into our manufactured home, I remember it being so cold and drafty I took two hot baths in one day just to get warm. And yes, there were many times when my husband, Frank, and I would wrap up in blankets to watch TV. When it was cold, we got colder sitting because the wind came right through the

house. Wearing extra layers of clothes and keeping our shoes and socks on all the time was normal. When it was cold enough to see our breath inside, we bought a space heater.

When Randy [Randy Wright, one of Idaho Power's contracted Weatherization managers] called Frank and told him we were getting a new heat pump, I teared up. We could not have afforded to do this on our own.

We're warmer than toast now.

The energy efficiency upgrades made to our home included a new heat pump, duct

work, a programmable thermostat and CFL bulbs, plus ceiling, floor and pipe insulation.

We're definitely warmer. We keep the thermostat at 65. We don't get cold, and we don't hear the wind blowing through the house like we did before.

We also are enjoying lower electricity bills. I have seen big savings this winter.

There's absolutely no way we can express how grateful we are. Idaho Power's Weatherization Solutions provided amazing things for us. It's just fantastic.

► *"We're warmer than toast now."*



Donna Blay (left) working with Idaho Power Program Specialist Cheryl Paoli