

Energy Smackdown™  
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**For Immediate Release**

## **ENERGY SMACKDOWN™ ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF AIR SEALING CHALLENGE**

On March 7th, the Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) and the Energy Smackdown teams combined forces to weatherize two low-income homes identified by Homeowners Rehab, Inc.

### **Summary results...**

- 45 people worked a total of 190 hours -- nearly 5 person weeks.
- Together, we traveled 376 miles and generated 160 pounds of CO2 for an average 'footprint' of 0.4 lbs/mile -- roughly that for public transit.
- Blower door measurements...

#### **Home #1**

- Before test: 3550 (cfm 50 with basement door closed)
- After test: 3450 (cfm 50 with basement door closed)
- Change: -100 cfm (cubic feet of air per minute, meaning the home is 100 cfm LESS drafty)
- Assessment: Not a big change. We couldn't get upstairs to seal the upper unit. Also, the walls are well-insulated and sealed with cellulose, which limits infiltration to windows, doors and floor.

#### **Home #2**

- Before test: 5,550 (cfm 50 with basement door closed, attic door open)
- After test: 4,800 (cfm 50 with basement door closed, attic door open)
- Change: -750 cfm (cubic feet of air per minute, meaning the home is 750 cfm less drafty)
- Assessment: Big change. Homeowners report a big improvement in comfort level.

### **Team results (travel was not included in the scoring)...**

- 10 Arlington A-Team members worked 39 hours for a total of 7,800 points
- 10 Cambridge Energy Busters worked 36 hours for 7,200 points
- 4 Team Medford members worked 13.5 hours for 2,700 points

### **Updated standings...**

Arlington is holding onto the lead, Cambridge is mounting a challenge, and Team Medford is lurking, ready to surprise us all.

- First place: Arlington "A" Team: 105,627 points
- Second place: Cambridge Energy Busters: 60,506 points
- Third place: Team Medford: 49,658 points

### Thanks to...

- EFI.org for providing programmable thermostats, power strips, shower heads, aerators, and more.
- Home Depot Everett for providing caulking, foam board, door sweeps, insulating foam, gloves, and lots more.
- Audrey and Steve, the HEET team leads, for partnering.
- Whole Foods for fixing us up with a delicious catered lunch.
- Byggmeister for doing the pre- and post-event blower door tests and inspections.
- JBS Inspections for leading tours of the homes.
- National Grid, NSTAR, and Mirant for their continued support of the Energy Smackdown
- Homeowner's Rehab for connecting us to the homeowners
- The team leads: Jason, Rob, Jeremy, Patty, Gary, Joan, David, Ken, John, and Ryan.

The **Energy Smackdown™**, a program of the **BrainShift Foundation** with sponsorship from **National Grid, NSTAR, Mirant, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, the Henry P. Kendall Foundation**, and the **Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources** challenges and supports participating Massachusetts households and organizations to reduce their own energy consumption as well as the energy consumption of others. In doing so, participants engage the public-at-large on the critical issue of climate change and what concrete things citizens can do to reduce their own energy consumption. Event sponsors were: **Home Depot, EFI, Byggmeister, and Whole Foods.**

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