

Nomination for Alliance Star of Energy Efficiency Awards

Sustainable Spaces is positioned to be the nationally recognized industry leader and “Green Home” brand that homeowners trust for improving their home’s health, comfort and energy efficiency. A licensed Home Performance with Energy Star general and solar contractor, the company specializes in home performance testing and remediation for existing homes as well as consulting on new construction and major remodels. The team’s holistic approach evaluates every home as a dynamic, interdependent system in order to identify specific steps to improve indoor air quality, comfort and energy efficiency while keeping the homeowners’ objectives in mind. By understanding client concerns and behaviors, combined with quantitative data about their homes, Sustainable Spaces creates **and implements** solutions that address their customers’ goals, budgets and priorities in order to create efficient, comfortable and healthy green homes.

The Problem

The 70 million single-family, owner-occupied homes in the U.S. account for 20.5% of total carbon emissions for the U.S. The vast majority of existing homes in the United States are terribly inefficient, poorly designed and constructed and often lack even the basics - proper insulation, tight ducts, weatherization, and efficient lighting and appliances. Fixing these existing buildings represents the single most potent and cost effective measure we can take to combat global warming – and it is not easy! Each home needs specific assessment and individual attention. Appropriate fixes require science based analysis, engineering design, and well-trained and knowledgeable construction workers, using new knowledge in a field where there is no apprentice training or trade education. Unless all these aspects are integrated the problems can be made *worse* by unknowing homeowners picking single-fix solutions.

There is a lack of resources to help homeowners address the underlying issues that result in uncomfortable temperatures, drafty rooms, asthma and allergies, musty odors, evidence of mold, and high utility bills. Typically, they are left to call specific construction trades or product sales people, who often provide stand alone solutions and unable to deal with complex systems. Sustainable Spaces is the only choice that will take a comprehensive approach to improve their family’s health, comfort, energy efficiency, and environmental impact.

The Solution

Sustainable Spaces is bridging the “last-mile” to reach the vast pool of poorly performing homes in the United States that are most in need of a home performance upgrade, and the key to reducing energy consumption in the residential sector. While most of the green building industry is focused on new construction, Sustainable Spaces sees enormous need in addressing these problems with services and products aimed at improving the safety, comfort and efficiency of existing residential structures. The Sustainable Spaces process starts with a Home Performance GreenUP Test, which is a two to three hour comprehensive assessment that measures and models building energy, identifies causes of air quality and comfort issues, and provides the data needed to develop a cost-effective, prioritized solution for customers. The results are then presented to a customer using a web-based tool, and the customer is given an estimate for the work recommended. After the client signs a contract, the team uses energy modeling software based on ACCA technical manuals to properly engineer the solution, which the Sustainable Spaces construction crew then implements. After project completion, each system is tested and commissioned to ensure the final product performs as designed.

By paving the way in remediating existing homes, Sustainable Spaces offers a turnkey solution for homeowners seeking to make their home green and address common, and sometimes complex, problems in their homes. Sustainable Spaces is doing the hard work of building a new delivery system within the construction and home remodeling industry, aimed at delivering multitudes of high quality home retrofits to address the system solution and global warming.

“We did not want to waste money on hit-and-miss home repairs. Sustainable Spaces’ professionals analyzed our home and designed a plan that prioritized solutions to meet our needs while increasing our home’s overall energy efficiency. The difference after Sustainable Spaces is amazing; we now have a home that is warm and cozy.”

-Kathy Manus, customer