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NextEra News Article



From left, Bryon Billman, Billie Rea and Susan Joiner are Texas employees who helped provide energy efficiency improvements to a local resident's home.

Human Resources consultant, all from NextEra Energy Resources' Forney and Lamar Energy Centers.

The three were volunteers with a program called *1house at a time* that provides energy efficient home retrofits and renewable energy technologies to low-income homeowners. The program improves living conditions for selected homeowners, lowering their energy costs while making their homes more environmentally sustainable.

Armed with tools and a plan, the volunteers went to work inside and out. Bryon said, "This was an old home, so one of the big projects was putting insulation in the attic. It gets cold in Dallas in the winter, and the insulation will help make the house more comfortable and energy efficient."

Texas employees provide pretty extreme home makeover

May 13, 2010

There were no television cameras or hyperactive celebrity hosts at the old house in Fair Park, Texas. There was just a group of about 50 volunteers, most strangers to each other, giving a Saturday to help an elderly woman improve the quality of her life.

Among the group were Bryon Billman , environmental leader; Billie Rea, environmental technician; and Susan Joiner,

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Bryon helped install a water cistern and repair rain gutters to direct water to the cistern. The cistern will provide water for outdoor plants in this area where droughts are a concern.

A few of the other projects completed that day included: replacing two window air conditioners; replacing some windows and doors; weather stripping, caulking and sealing; installing energy efficient light bulbs; yard work; and insulating the water heater.

1house at a time estimated the upgrades will result in annual energy savings of about 30 percent. But that's just part of the benefit.

"Her face lit up when she saw the work that had been done," Bryon said. "She enjoyed the TLC and having people there helping. She'll have a better life because of a couple hours of our day."

More 'Good Neighbor' Information:

Forney and Lamar are working to become members of [Clean Texas](#) a voluntary environmental leadership program to protect air, water, and land resources, that recognizes organizations for resolving environmental challenges and setting goals that exceed compliance levels under existing regulations. To be accepted into Clean Texas, applicants must achieve certain environmental performance goals and participate in community involvement projects such as *1 house at a time*.

"Forney and Lamar have had a lot of great environmental efforts in recent years. Membership in Clean Texas is good way for our plants to be recognized for our efforts," Bryon says.

