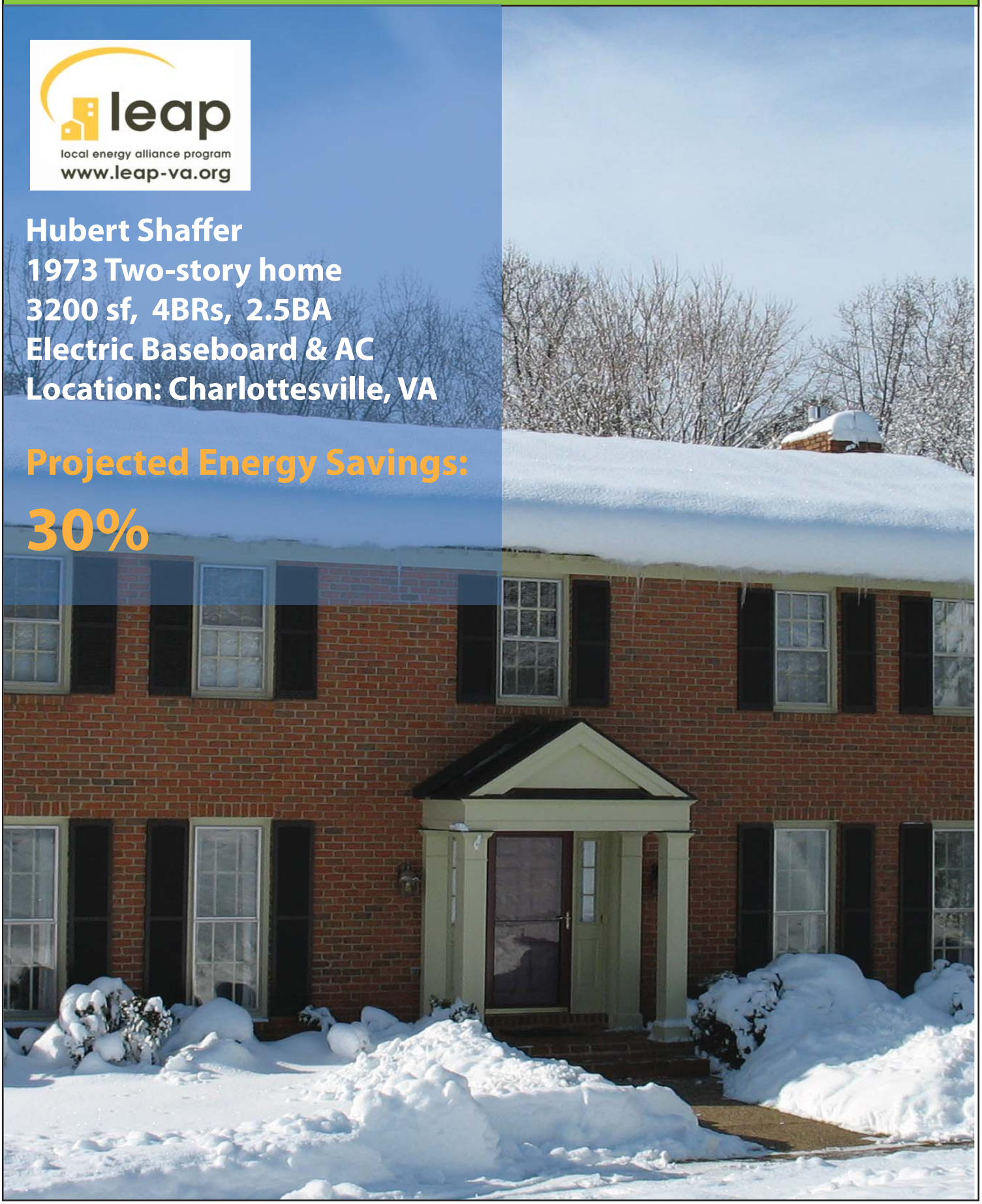
LEAP SUCCESS STORY

leap
local energy alliance program
www.leap-va.org

Hubert Shaffer
1973 Two-story home
3200 sf, 4BRs, 2.5BA
Electric Baseboard & AC
Location: Charlottesville, VA

Projected Energy Savings:

30%



LEAP SUCCESS STORY

Hu Shaffer always suspected that he lived in an inefficient home given his high energy bills, cold floors upstairs and having to run a dehumidifier all summer. Those suspicions were confirmed when he won a free home energy assessment as part of the 2011 PowerSaver Home Energy Makeover Contest. Some of the culprits turned out to be air escaping through openings in the attic and a lack of insulation in the basement. After air sealing and insulation, the Shaffers are looking at a 30% efficiency gain and a more comfortable home.

Basic Issues Uncovered in the Home Performance Assessment:

- Minimal insulation in attic and basement
- Leaky, old whole house fan with inadequate cover
- Unused fireplace and gas leaks from propane tank
- Finished basement area connected to unfinished area
- Forced to run dehumidifier all summer

Energy Improvement Measures Implemented:

- Open cell spray foamed roof deck and gables
- Insulate/separate finished basement from unfinished by spraying separation walls and under stairs
- Remove drop ceiling and spray all finished area basement joist ends
- Air seal gap in basement between block and top plate

Expected Benefits:

- 30% energy savings, lower energy bills, and a cozy home.

"One of the most important subjecst we talk to our customers about is the importance of air sealing. Many people think it's just caulking around windows and doors, but there are many places in a home that can leak air TO the outside (out your attic), and because of the chimney effect, your home will actually pull air in FROM the outside through cracks and holes you may not even be aware of (like the Shaffer's basement top plate and joists)."
-- Guy Caroselli, LEAP Residential Energy Services Manager

Contractors: Creative Conservation