

Email Subject Header:

Utahans Stuck with Energy-Hogging Homes, Unless Lawmakers Act Today

News pitch text:

Dear (reporter name),

By day, Shelly Bouvang runs energy efficiency programs at the local utility. By night, she lives in a house so inefficient, her HVAC guy called it the “worst he’s ever seen.”

But it’s not her fault. She bought it that way, brand new.

An outdated building code and lax code enforcement created the perfect storm to turn her just-built house into a money pit, draining her family annually of \$3,600 spent on higher utility bills, and saddling them with a solution the HVAC guy says will cost \$4,000 and require punching up to six holes in their family room walls.

Shelly is not alone. Most new homes in Utah are built to outdated energy codes, costing homeowners hundreds and thousands of dollars each year on higher energy bills and costly home improvements.

This senseless waste of money and energy could be stopped if legislators act today to update Utah’s building codes.

Today, the Senate Business and Labor Committee will be reviewing HB 203 - a bill to codify the state’s existing building codes. A simple amendment to the bill would update the energy code for homes and ensure all new homes in Utah are built energy-smart from the start.

Below is additional information on this story plus contact information for Mrs. Bouvang and her home energy contractor, Dan. Shelly is willing to have reporters tour her home to see first-hand the problems she is facing.

Thank you for your attention and I hope you consider covering this important story.

Sincerely,
Brandy Smith
Utah Clean Energy