

**From:** Susan Parker [susan@clearthinkingcommunications.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2019 9:45 AM  
**To:** Theresa Utton  
**CC:** 'Melanie Paskevich'; 'Sally Ayers'  
**Subject:** Support for HEAT Squad

Dear Theresa,

I am writing to express my support for the valuable work of HEAT Squad and their request for \$1.25 million in one-time funding so that HEAT Squad can expand statewide.

I recently purchased a house in St. Johnsbury that was built in 1900 and was concerned about its energy efficiency. It's important to me that I do my part in mitigating climate change and minimizing the use of fossil fuels. But it was a little daunting to know how to make the best choices, both environmentally and financially. I had heard about energy audits through Efficiency Vermont but had not taken any steps to have one done until I saw a HEAT Squad car at my neighbor's home. My neighbors raved about Sally Ayers and I followed up to make an appointment. Sally came and performed a thorough energy audit of my home while explaining everything she was doing and answering all of my many questions. She quickly turn around a detailed report of her findings with recommendations of steps I could take to increase my home's energy efficiency and the savings I could expect over time. Sally then answered many more questions that I had, always promptly, and put me in touch with trusted local contractors.

I undertook a number of her recommendations including adding weather stripping, sealing up leaks, and most importantly getting 18" loose fill cellulose R-60 blown into my attic. This took place in December 2018 and I immediately felt a difference in the comfort in my house as well as noticed that the oil boiler was not going on as much. After the improvements were done, Sally returned to do a follow up blower test. The results showed a 28% air leakage reduction from her initial tests, which exceeded my expectations. Sally also filled out the paperwork so that I could receive a more than \$1100 rebate check from the state of Vermont (for reference, I paid about \$2300 for the work). Throughout this process, Sally and the HEAT Squad went out of their way to be helpful in the process of getting an old house to be more energy efficient. It was especially useful to have an unbiased advocate steer me through the often confusing choices out there.

HEAT Squad is very important in helping Vermonters save on energy costs and in helping Vermont to become a healthier, more energy efficient state. Its work is especially vital for low and middle income Vermonters for whom high energy costs can be especially burdensome. Having HEAT Squad in more towns will expand its reach and its impact. From my experience, seeing a HEAT Squad car in my neighborhood helped me take a step that I had been contemplating but had not yet made the time to follow up on.

Thank you for your interest and time.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Best Regards,

Susan Parker