

Nevada Tribe Takes Hands-On Approach to Energy Issues



Paul Knight shows homeowner Sue Keller-Lynch her home's efficiency readings following a blower door test.

By Allie Smith and James Cavallo

Since the 1930s, the **Fallon Paiute-Shoshone** tribes have lived in a quiet community amid farms and ranches near the town of Fallon, NV. Most homes on the reservation were built nearly 40 years ago with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds and according to their specifications.

Nearly 200 HUD homes on the reservation are in need of rehabilitation, which provides an optimal opportunity for reducing energy consumption. Saving energy is critical, as propane prices have increased by nearly 50 percent in recent months. To mitigate these concerns, the tribal council has teamed with **Allie Smith**, the Nevada state Rebuild America representative, to form a Rebuild America partnership to address energy-efficiency opportunities in housing and community buildings on the reservation.

Field Training

The Fallon tribes hosted a workshop June 6-7 that integrated both health and energy issues and drew 22 participants. Topics addressed included moisture in crawlspaces, elevated radon levels, and asbestos in ceilings and wallboard, while discussions outlined renewable energy sources and opportunities for using environmentally sustainable materials in renovation projects. Hands-on field training focused on auditing methods and diagnostic tools, featuring blower door, crawlspace inspection and energy rating software demonstrations. The event succeeded in demonstrating how proper rehabilitation results in healthy housing while reducing energy use.

For more information about Rebuild Nevada or the event, contact Allie Smith at 702-895-0539 or email rebuildnevada@hotmail.com.