



Connecticut Homeowners Opt for Energy Efficient Makeover

For 21 years, on a quiet rural property, Ken and Karen Kline have enjoyed an idyllic lifestyle. Though, as they entered retirement following long careers as educators, the cost to heat their 2,200 s.f., modernized 1970s two-story home acquired new significance.

Alert to the signs of coming trouble, the Klins knew that their 42-year-old, oil-fired boiler with tankless hot



water coil was also soon ready for its retirement.

After asking for referrals, the Klins invited Chuck Appleby for a visit. Chuck is president of a third-generation, five-person plumbing and mechanical firm based in Old Lyme, Conn. — Appleby Plumbing & Heating Company.

In short order, Appleby won the opportunity to replace the Kline's mechanical systems.

Hydronic recipe

"Clearly, the old boiler had to go," commented Appleby. His "recipe" for the home: a 30 MBH, 95% AFUE, LP-fired wall-hung mod-con boiler, a Noritz tankless water



Taco's bright yellow ECM circulator, the Bumble Bee, points the system toward 20-degree delta-T operation.

heater and a brief list of Taco components.

According to Appleby, improving the efficiency of the heating system was priority number one. "For high efficiency, I knew I'd point the system toward 20-degree delta-T operation, a job that would be performed by Taco's small, bright yellow ECM circulator, the Bumble Bee," explained Appleby.

So when the hydronic components were assembled on the wall with the boiler and water heater, the Bumble Bee pump became the center of operations. Mounted above it: four Taco Zone Sentry zone valves, each tasked with circulation responsibility for baseboard zones. Appleby also accommodated circulation and temperature control for a lower-temp, in-floor radiant heat zone that serves the master bedroom and bath.

"We've installed plenty of the Bumble Bees," recalled Appleby. "They're often tied to Zone Sentry zone valves. I really like the pump, and the Zone Sentry's for their reliable ball valve, full-flow operation."

For the Kline job, they also installed a Taco 4900 air



eliminator.

"I'm particularly fond of these because of their stainless steel pall rings to remove microbubbles in the system," he said. "They're much more resistant to corrosion from chemicals in solution than units with internal brushes made of copper."

Appleby also chose Taco's newest zone control — easily tasked with management of system circulation while adding what Appleby referred to as "basic, common sense" value. "If a thermostat activates upstairs, you know it right at the zone control. Or if a zone valve — say, one that's installed above a drop ceiling, or in a crawl space — you also know when it's open or closed without having to physically check it."

"We saved over \$2,000 in the first heating season alone," said Ken Kline. "Plus, we're very comfortable in the home and have never had more hot water on tap."

"We couldn't be more pleased with the work that Chuck Appleby did at our home," said Ken Kline. "My wife and I are delighted to know that we're now saving energy dollars. We just wish now that we'd have done it sooner." ●

A 30 MBH, 95% AFUE, LP-fired wall-hung mod-con boiler, a Noritz tankless water heater and Taco components complete the system.