

WAP Corner:

WXTV – An Important New Online Resource

by Robert Scott

Although WAP network providers certainly do not have much spare time on their hands, everyone should make it a point to tune into WXTV, a new initiative to tell the Weatherization story in a TV episode format. While we have seen some good quality videos on WAP, from informational pieces about the program to training presentations on specific field techniques, WXTV sets a new standard as a new media online tool to promote the Weatherization Program and its technology.

WXTV is produced by the Montana Weatherization Training Center, in collaboration with Montana State University Extension and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The project is funded by a grant awarded by Exxon-Mobil in partnership with the National Community Action Foundation.

The Montana Training Center website, <http://weatherization.org>, states “WXTV highlights the latest in weatherization rules, techniques, innovation, and green technologies. It's fun, informative, and its content is driven by the things that interest you most about weatherization.”

WXTV episodes will feature some of the foremost Weatherization diagnostics and techniques, like pressure diagnostics, energy auditing, mobile home weatherization, multi-family building weatherization, health and safety issues, and heating systems. There are also plans to have an episode on energy savings tips for homeowners and an episode for children on energy efficiency. Most episodes will incorporate discussions with experts and “how to” advice on innovative tools, materials, and techniques.

Approximately 40 episodes are planned with a goal of establishing a comprehensive visual reference library that nationally supports the

efforts of the DOE WAP core competencies and standardized curricula. WXTV hopes to feature actual work in the field, showcase innovations of agency work, and highlight content from as many states as possible.

Mike Vogel, Director of the Montana Training Center, states “WXTV is not a Montana program, but a national initiative to enhance, build and motivate programs. Using high quality production pushed through web and social-networking sites, we hope to reach the new, young, high-tech worker accustomed to getting information through a computer. WXTV is not meant to replace traditional training venues, but to enhance it.”

“The world is moving away from PowerPoint webinars and interactive videos set up with specialized sites and equipment - the weatherization workforce wants instant information that they can access anytime. In the world of weatherization, the goal is production - folks need additional opportunities for training aside from sitting in a classroom and attending distant learning classes scheduled during their work hours. WXTV provides information when they have time to access it. They can view it, save it, review it, and join in discussions with others with the online forum.”

WXTV is poised to become a state-of-the-art informational and training medium for the Weatherization network and emerging green workforce. NASCS SP strongly encourages you to become familiar with and watch WXTV, spread the word throughout your network and workforce, and utilize this valuable resource. In addition to the Montana Training Center website, the first and future episodes can also be accessed through WAPTAC.

**Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress,
and working together is success.— Henry Ford**