



**Ken Field**  
Owner of Slate  
Belt Energy  
Services

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## I Told You So

There is no shortage of proclaimed experts today in any area of knowledge. For me, experience is a very good teacher. Having done certain jobs over the years using just common sense and the training I have received in the area of building science gave me proof that they were done properly. One area that is still pretty hotly contested is attic ventilation. Recently I read an article by a true building science expert. His name is Joseph Lstiburek and he has been in the building energy business since the early 1980s. One of the books he wrote was used as a text book in an energy auditing class I took a few years ago. I know for a fact that his words are trustworthy.

Speaking about our area only and not the deep south his opinion is that all attics should be airsealed and unvented. The insulation should be on the underside of the roof slope and not the attic floor. He cites a few reasons other than energy usage that make very good sense too. Vented roofs blow off in storms far more often than unvented ones because of the way air moves through them during periods of high wind. In fire prone areas, vented roofs catch fire more often than unvented ones. Mostly because embers get through the vents and ignite wood in the attic. But for my purpose energy is the main reason to seal and insulate properly. The complaint about shingle temperature has been discounted for years and I don't think shingle manufacturers even use that argument to deny warranty replacement anymore. In our area there are a lot of heating and air conditioning systems in the attic and they may as well be outside being on the wrong side of the building insulation. Several weatherization organizations over the years sent teams to add insulation to homes and without airsealing made the attics much colder allowing the relative humidity to increase and roof sheathing was getting moldy and rafters were rotting. They discontinued those programs as soon as they found that problem.

A house is a system. Everything interacts with everything else. All high efficiency furnaces and boilers use sealed combustion so a tight house won't backdraft an appliance. I believe builders need to look at these new methods and incorporate them into new homes. Energy is not getting any less expensive and if a home can actually use 25-40% less by changing sealing and insulation methods, we owe it to new home buyers to do that.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

## WM Team Joins Neighbors to Support Slate Belt YMCA Community Garden

By Adrienne Fors

PLAINFIELD TWSP - Grand Central Landfill Manager Joe Statile and site team members on April 3 joined volunteers who helped the Slate Belt Y build raised planting beds that will be used this spring and summer to grow flowers and vegetables. Joining Joe at the community service project were landfill Gas Technicians Justin Davenport and Randall Witt Jr. The Y will use the planters to teach children about gardening, the source of their food and nutrition and produce grown in the boxes will be available for the community.



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