

## Mountain Green

*Mountain Green* is a year-long program of The Environmental Leadership Center of Warren Wilson College (ELC) that began in 2006. With leadership from attorney Robert J. Deutsch, ELC staff member Phillip Ray Gibson, and a visionary Steering committee, *Mountain Green* provides an annual conference, a public lunch and learn series, and a service component to promote sustainable community practices for our mountain region.

The *Mountain Green* conference, [www.mountaingreenwnc.org](http://www.mountaingreenwnc.org), is held on the campus of Warren Wilson in late June and features experts in architecture, development, energy, and construction to discuss best practices along with a professional vendor expo with displays of the latest green technologies.

Monthly "Lunch and Learn" sessions are held on campus, free to the public, for informal training and discussion about a variety of topics such as livable senior friendly communities, native landscaping, Green Seal certifications, regional land use issues, and processes for selecting best sustainable practices. They are followed by a Green Walkabout© on campus that tours demo sites for these practices.

In 2008, the *Mountain Green* Steering committee approved the addition of a third element to the program. INSULATE! is an outreach component of the *Mountain Green* program and Warren Wilson's Environmental Leadership Center. It builds on the college's mission-driven commitment to sustainable practices and community service and *Mountain Green's* goal to promote sustainable community. INSULATE! reaches out to homeowners living below the poverty level and insulates their homes free of charge to reduce their utility bills and their carbon footprint. This is done by supporting existing programs conducted by The Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Inc. and Community Action Opportunities. Their budgets have been significantly reduced in the area of weatherization but the need continues to rise.



### Need Assistance?

Contact

The Council on Aging of Buncombe  
County, Inc. @ 828-277-8288

or

Community Action Opportunities @  
828-252-2495

### For More Information About INSULATE!

[www.insulatenc.com](http://www.insulatenc.com)

or

[pgibson@warren-wilson.edu](mailto:pgibson@warren-wilson.edu)

828-771-3781

Reducing Carbon Emissions One Home At a Time

# INSULATE!



Helping low-income  
homeowners and  
improving our community.

# INSULATE!

## Reducing Carbon Emissions One Home At a Time

The North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association reported in 2008 that homes of those living 50% below the national poverty level consumed a disproportionate amount of energy. NC households with incomes below 50% of the national poverty level pay 59.3% of their annual income on their energy bills. Homes built ten or more years ago consume up to 60% more energy than newer homes. And, heating and cooling account for 50 to 70% of the energy used in the average American home.

INSULATE! galvanizes higher education, federal and state agencies, private partners and municipal leadership to respond to this need. It attends to economic, environmental, and equity issues and embodies, in every way, sustainable community action.

With leadership from a Warren Wilson student work crew managed by the Environmental Leadership Center, and a WWC student service crew managed by WWC Service Learning, INSULATE! partners will work with The Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Inc., the Asheville Home Builders Association, the Community Action Opportunities Weatherization program, the City of Asheville, and Mountain Housing Opportunities to identify homeowners in need of this assistance, conduct audits, weatherize the home and educate the community about this important work.



[www.insulatenc.com](http://www.insulatenc.com)

### Energy Audits

Included in this outreach is a pre- and post- energy audit, no-cost insulation services, and long term energy monitoring. With labor and materials donated by community partners, Warren Wilson students manage the program and the service crews that monitor and insulate these homes. Warren Wilson's Service Learning provides student workers to assist in the insulation work.



### Making Improvements

Funding from community partners supports the equipment needs for the energy audits. The Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Inc. identifies homeowners. Community Action Opportunities evaluates conditions and helps determine what work is needed to improve energy efficiency in these homes. The Asheville Home Builders Association's (AHBA) service groups provide experienced laborers to guide onsite teams and organizes funding and additional supplies to implement the work.



### Data Gathering & Training

Warren Wilson College students collect pre- and post-data from the homeowner to assess the need for and then the value of the improvements and track them over the long-term. They calculate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and educate homeowners about conservation practices. Information about the program and the value of the retrofits will be available through the City of Asheville. Contact information can be found at [www.mountaingreenwnc.org](http://www.mountaingreenwnc.org).

