# YOU CAN DO IT!

**Once you begin to understand the basic concepts of "building science", the majority of weatherization work is relatively simple. Getting to the work area may not be! I have areas of my crawlspace and attic that I probably won't see until we move out of the house. DO THE BEST THAT YOU CAN. IT ALL HELPS.**

**A major word of caution for anyone who tackles any of these projects: get some guidance before you start. Even if you don't want or need a full energy audit, be aware that any changes that you make can alter the air flow in the house and cause some serious problems.**
**Here's a short story from my house - and I know better!**
**I put an office above my garage, so insulated the walls and roof but left the top of the roof open so I could run some lights in before I closed it up. Needless to say the heat loss was high and the garage was very drafty as the old doors and windows were very leaky. The air that was pouring out through the opening in the roof was pulling outside air in through the cracks in the doors and window. Out of nowhere we had a warm day so I jumped outside and insulated the main door, installed an insulated side door, and put in a new window. When I went up to my office that night I could smell the exhaust from my boiler. I had successfully stopped the outside air from coming in, but not the interior air from leaving. Now the make up air was being pulled down my boiler fluepipe to replace the air that I was still losing through the roof! DEADLY! As soon as I sealed the roof (that night!) everything was fine.**
**The lesson is: ALWAYS START FROM THE TOP AND WORK DOWN! Controlling the air flow in the house can be tricky. Sometimes new windows or finishing the basement without air sealing the attic can cause problems. If you don't slow down the air leaving from above, the air entering from below may come from sources that are unhealthy or worse. So a consultation before you begin a project and testing along the way really makes sense!**