



County of Santa Barbara Community Services - emPower Division

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**50 HOME CHALLENGE ENERGY CHAMPIONS TO BE HONORED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS**

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)** –The first [50 Home Challenge - Solvang](https://www.empowersbc.org/50HC) participants (<https://www.empowersbc.org/50HC>) to complete extensive home energy efficiency projects will be recognized by city and county officials on April 23 at Solvang City Hall during the city council meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. Solvang Mayor Jim Richardson and Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann will recognize homeowners Peter and Jutta Aichinger, and Meagan and Eric Tambini recognizing their commitment to energy efficiency and environmental stewardship.

Preceding the ceremony, members of the community are invited to a reception in the lobby and speak with the participating homeowners about their experience, positive impacts, and find out how they can partake in the program. Light refreshments will be served.

“Our house is much more livable,” said Peter Aichinger regarding the home efficiency changes they made. “It just feels continually comfortable. When it heats, the temperature changes are smoother and more uniform. It’s not blasting on, blasting off.”

The Aichingers and Tambinis worked with an emPower Energy Coach to identify some common, energy-efficiency issues in their homes, such as outdated heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, insufficient insulation, and numerous cracks and gaps. The emPower program connected them with qualified local contractors and available rebates that saved them thousands of dollars on their retrofits.

The 50 Home Challenge is a joint initiative of Santa Barbara County’s [emPower Central Coast](https://www.empowersbc.org) program and the nonprofit [CHERP](https://www.cherp.org) (Community Home Energy Retrofit Project) to engage an entire community and retrofit 50 single-family homes to make them more energy efficient.

The emPower program was established by the County of Santa Barbara to offer incentives, financing and free technical advice to help single-family homeowners make home energy upgrades easier and more affordable. For more information or to schedule a home consultation with an emPower Energy Coach, visit [www.empowersbc.org](https://www.empowersbc.org).

-30-

**About CHERP:**

CHERP is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that was created to eliminate barriers to success of our critical, national energy efficiency goals.