

Infrared cameras monitor heat loss

If "seeing is believing," then seeing through the eyes of an infrared camera is what enables students in Hannibal, NY, to believe that heat is leaking from their homes in winter. With the aid of a Toyota TAPESTRY grant, Carol Burch of Hannibal Central School bought a camera for her seventh graders to do home energy audits, ninth graders to do a weatherization study for their high school building, and for high school students to do an infrared study of their Town Hall (and also to mentor the seventh graders). As Burch reported to the American Association of Physics Teachers meeting in Syracuse on 26 July, the infrared camera was delivered by appointment to students' homes at their convenience, for the students to take pictures of their homes to detect locations of heat leakage. She showed photos obtained -- greatest heat leakage for white, least for purple. Interestingly, the ninth grade pictures of the high school showed doors warmest when viewed from the outside, coldest when viewed from the inside.