

Airport Gears Up to Install Sound Insulation in 54 Homes

Tweed-New Haven Regional Airport's most ambitious plan to install sound insulation in 54 households is on track for 2018.

The Airport's Residential Sound Insulation Program, funded by grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and State of Connecticut, and funds from the City of New Haven and Airport Authority, is a voluntary program that was years in the making.



Mayor Toni Harp, Tweed-New Haven Executive Director Tim Larson and local media toured the newly insulated home of Burr Street resident Kim Makres this summer.

In 2011 Tweed-New Haven Regional Airport undertook a Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study that led to the development of a Noise Compatibility Program and Noise Contour Maps. Based on FAA regulations, the study recommended steps the Airport could take to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on nearby residents in November 2012.

The Noise Compatibility Study identified approximately 189 homes in New Haven and East Haven where outdoor noise levels may be high enough to qualify for federally funded noise mitigation measures.

Tweed-New Haven Regional Airport successfully sought financial assistance from the FAA to start a Residential Sound Insulation Program in 2016. The strategy was to start small, with 10 homes participating in the first year, under a pilot program, and, once the program got off the ground and FAA funding became available, expand the program until all qualifying property owners who volunteered for the program could participate.

This summer another 12 homes received sound insulation.

Tweed's Executive Director Tim Larson is delighted with how things are going with the program. He said, "We took the first steps just two years ago. Next year we'll be in a full sprint. We won't be done until all homeowners who want to receive the benefits of this program have their homes insulated."

What do homeowners get?

It depends on what's needed to insulate outdoor sounds from infiltrating inside a home.

Each home that participates in the program is thoroughly tested. Spaces or gaps where sound comes in are identified. The Residential Sound Insulation Program staff develop a plan with the homeowner on what can be done to reduce sound infiltration.

Like people, no two homes are exactly alike. Depending on the age, structure and building materials, the sound insulation plan can vary a lot from home to home.

Typically, doors and windows let in the greatest amount of sound from outdoors. So, as part of the Residential Sound Insulation Program, new acoustical windows and doors were installed in all habitable rooms with direct exposure to the outside. Air conditioning was added in homes where none existed before.

The average cost of improvements is \$35,000-\$40,000 per home.

All work performed in the home is done by licensed contractors and overseen by the program's construction manager – an important quality control feature.

5 Myths about the program

1. *It's only for owner-occupied homes.* **False.** A property owner does not have to live in the house that is eligible. If tenants who live in the house support having the sound insulation installed, a non-owner-occupied house can be included in the program.
2. *My house will have to be elevated to meet National Flood Insurance Program requirements.* Residents whose home is in the FEMA flood zone believe participation in the program will require them to raise their homes up to meet federal flood regulation rules. While FEMA rules could be an issue, the best way to find out is to get more information on the impact of participating in the program. The financial value of the sound insulation improvements may or may not be affected by FEMA rules.
3. *It will take a long time to get the improvements done.* The contractor hired by Tweed-New Haven Regional Airport typically completes work in 7-10 days.
4. *If I participate in this program, I'll have to support runway expansion.* **False.** This program is totally unrelated to any other project proposed by the Airport.
5. *There has to be a catch...this is a FREE program?* Yes, there is **NO COST** to the homeowner to receive home sound insulation improvements – new doors, windows, insulation, etc. For some homeowners there could be minor costs such as reconnecting alarms systems, correcting a code violation that impacts treatments, or the purchase of new blinds if existing blinds cannot be reinstalled. The project is primarily funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, with some financial support from the State, City of New Haven and the Airport Authority.

BY THE NUMBERS...

22	Households that have received sound insulation
54	Households to participate in the program in 2018
95	Percent customer satisfaction rating
189	Properties that may be eligible for sound insulation program
between \$35,000 and \$40,000	Average dollar value of sound installation improvements per home

On the fence???

Do you think you may qualify for sound insulation but need to learn more about it?

John Hansen of Jones Payne Group will meet with you to explain the program and answer your questions.

Call toll-free 877-541-8795

VOICES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD



"The level of efficiency and craftsmanship that the team provided was mind boggling! The [noise abatement] team was easy to work with, followed up continually to make sure things were going well and displayed a level of customer service skills I wish were commonplace in today's world."

- Mary Beth Morris, East Haven

"The airport is so incredibly generous...we felt like we won the lottery! Our house is quieter and warmer, with less draft. Last year we saved about 25% on fuel."

- Christina Ferraro, New Haven

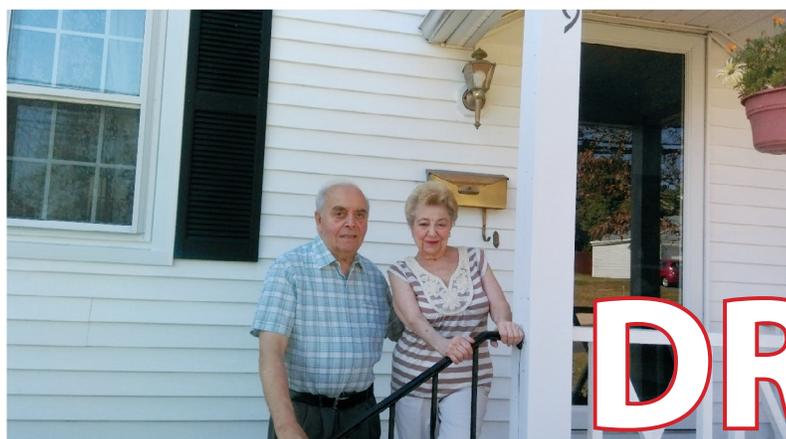
"I am extremely pleased with the contractor...they did an outstanding, neat and professional job."

- Marie Colombo, New Haven



"It is amazing the difference we have seen; my husband and I agree it has reduced the noise by 90-95%."

- Kim & Mike Makres, New Haven



Emiddio and Ann Cavaliere who bought their New Haven home 63 years ago as newlyweds decided to take advantage of the program because it sounded like a good idea. Ann said, *"I did not believe it was free. Everything came out lovely and we saved on fuel."*

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Who's who in the program

The Tweed Residential Sound Insulation Program has a mix of firms that bring local and national expertise. It's a great balance of people who have successfully done sound insulation in other airport communities with local contractors who know the area and are easily reached.



The Jones Payne Group: a nationally known sound insulation company is overall manager of the program for Tweed-New Haven Regional Airport. Staff based in Boston, MA has assembled a team that brings expertise in all facets of the program. Jones Payne understands FAA requirements, construction management and has worked in other communities where acoustical insulation was installed in homes, including Rhode Island's T. F. Green Airport.



Tri-Con Construction Managers, LLC: a minority and veteran owned construction management firm located in New Haven, CT oversees all construction and budget management at each home throughout all construction phases. What Tri-Con owner Brackston Poitier likes most about the project is its immediate impact. He said, "it's very satisfying to see quick results. We're able to get in and out of a home within a couple of weeks and work with homeowners who are absolutely ecstatic with the improvements."



EcoSmart Home Services: a division of R. Pelton Builders of Berlin, CT, this company, affiliated with Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund's Home Performance with Energy

Star Program, provides energy audits for homeowners. The same spaces that let heat out of a home and waste energy are also the places where outdoor noise seeps in! By teaming up with this program, the Tweed sound insulation program received an average of \$1,100 in rebates for each home – stretching available dollars a little further.



Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI): a woman-owned small business located in Hartford, CT, this company has assisted Tweed-New Haven Regional Airport with public outreach and communication on several projects. Working closely with Jones Payne, FHI has been responsible for scheduling appointments with homeowners, door-to-door outreach, publicity materials and interviewing program participants before and after construction to monitor customer satisfaction with the program.



Holzner Construction & Northeast Noise Abatement (NENA)...construction companies who installed noise insulation improvement at homes. Holzner, based in Bridgeport, CT was the contractor in the pilot program. NENA, a Rhode Island firm with previous experience at RI's largest airport, was contracted to work in the program's second year.



GREAT JOB!

The results of the customer satisfaction survey of participants in the pilot phase of the sound insulation program are in and they are **very** favorable.

Program staff interviewed first-year program participants 12 months after sound insulation improvements had been completed.

Homeowners were asked, was noise reduced? What did they think of the quality of the work? What could be done to improve the program in later phases? Would they recommend the program to their neighbors?

A large majority of homeowners reported "excellent" and "very good" ratings of the effectiveness of sound insulation measures. The quality of products, except the hardware for both windows and doors, were highly rated.

Some participants noted savings in their fuel bill. Two-thirds believe the market value of their home increased through participation in the program.

How many said they would recommend the program to their neighbors? **100%**.