



Contractor Profile: DNR Construction

DNR Construction is a family business based in Oak Forest, Illinois. The company serves single family homes and multifamily buildings throughout the Chicago region. They started out with a focus on siding and exterior construction. They added energy efficiency and weatherization services starting in 1996. Getting into energy efficiency work helped the company grow, even when new construction work was slow, and energy efficiency programs have played an important role in supporting that growth.

“We’ve increased our staff to 75 full-time employees. About 60 of our employees are dedicated toward just energy efficiency install measures, whether it’s air sealing or insulation. So it’s very important to our business and to sustain our growth,” said Tom McElherne, who manages marketing for the company.

As the company’s staff has expanded, they have purchased new equipment as well, going from one truck to 22 trucks and adding other equipment such as blower door machines, which are used to measure the airtightness of a building.

McElherne says it’s gratifying to see how the company’s work benefits their customers. He says the programs they work on typically save households \$400 to \$600 per year on energy costs.

“Especially for some of the low income programs, this is a huge amount of money that they have to spend annually – a large percentage of their yearly income,” he said. “So I know the feedback I get from homeowners is very positive as far as how it affects their gas bills and electric bills, and then how it affects their overall comfort in their house.”

McElherne said working with Elevate Energy has helped DNR Construction bring in more work.

“Elevate Energy has been great for us because what they do is provide a market. They actually go out and help us – being a small family business – pursue potential customers who need this type of work. They’ve also been great with leveraging funds through state-funded programs and utility rebates,” he said.

“For example, we’ve done a couple larger multi-unit complexes over the last three years – a 544-unit, a 380-unit – where a lot of the people meet the low-



DNR Construction employees Tom McElherne (L) and Michael Helwig

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income guidelines. And I hear back from the onsite property managers and some of the residents there that it’s helped them as far as their energy savings and overall comfort in the house. So Elevate Energy actually helps us get on the map with some of the owners of these complexes,” said McElherne.

Opportunities to do more energy efficiency work help family businesses like DNR Construction grow and add jobs. The work also benefits companies that supply them with equipment and the home owners and building owners they serve.

To learn more about how contractors can get involved with Elevate Energy’s energy efficient buildings program, visit ElevateEnergy.org/contractors.