Linda Gibbons was at the Ventura Home and Garden Show when she learned the emPower program was available in Ventura County. Linda had been wanting to address some issues in her home, but was unsure how or where to begin. At the event, she was able to learn about emPower’s low-interest loans and free Energy Coach home energy assessment. She scheduled a site visit with emPower Energy Coach, Jason Scheurer.

“My furnace was 50 years old, my house was cold in the winter and very hot in the summer. Also, dust would fill the air when I ran the furnace. This was a concern, because I have allergies,” said Linda. After Linda’s Energy Coach site visit, Jason connected Linda with Allen Energy, an emPower participating contractor. Linda is environmentally conscientious, so after meeting with Allen Energy she became interested in not just an energy efficient home, but also a healthy and comfortable one.

Like many Ventura County homes, the insulation in Linda’s home was insufficient and her furnace was extremely old. Linda added R40 insulation to the attic, then combined that with air sealing to seal up air leaks and maximize the effectiveness of her insulation. She also replaced her inefficient furnace with a high efficiency furnace and installed a "cool" roof.

Since the upgrade, Linda has experienced many benefits including fewer allergy symptoms, lowered energy use, and a home that is more enjoyable for her and her family. When asked about her experience Linda said, "It has been so wonderful working with the emPower Team."
1. Home Energy Assessment
Linda Gibbons worked with Allen Energy to conduct a “whole-house” home energy assessment. This type of assessment uses diagnostic tools to help pinpoint areas for energy improvement and identify health and safety issues. As a result of the assessment, the Gibbons family decided to make energy efficiency upgrades to address health, comfort and indoor air quality issues.

2. Air Sealing
Did you know that if you added up all the little cracks and crevices in your house it likely adds up to a hole the size of a hula-hoop? It’s no wonder that a typical homeowner could save 20% on their heating and cooling costs just by air sealing their home. Sealing is one of the least expensive upgrades that you can make to improve comfort and efficiency.

3. Insulation
Insulation levels are specified by R-Value. R-Value is a measure of insulation’s ability to resist heat traveling through it. The higher the R-Value, the better the thermal performance of the insulation, which the Gibbons family now experience firsthand. They installed blown cellulose insulation with an R-Value of 40.

4. High Efficiency Furnace
The efficiency of a furnace is measured by “annual fuel utilization efficiency” (AFUE). Furnaces with an AFUE of 92% or higher are considered the most energy efficient. The Gibbons family replaced their 50 year old furnace with a new energy efficient model. The new furnace and air sealing resulted in a home that was no longer as dusty.

5. Cool Roof
Linda Gibbons is smart and environmentally aware. She completed energy efficiency upgrades like insulation and air sealing, and considered many factors before she decided to install a cool roof to assist with her energy reduction and comfort goals. Cool roofs reflect heat and are an effective way for Southern California homeowners to save energy and lower utility costs.