

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

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The side wall in plastic hoop houses between the batten board and the ground level is often overlooked and heat is lost. This area often contains holes or uneven plastic that is not providing insulation to the structure.

Many growers are now using rigid aluminum covered urethane or styrofoam sheathing or aluminum reflective paper insulation in this area to retain heat. The insulation material should be buried in the ground 6-8 inches and extend to the batten board.

This little extra can help save energy, perhaps 3 to 6%. The cost for a 26 x 96' house using 5/8" aluminum coated urethane is about \$300 for a 60° double poly house. Using 3000 gallons (\$2700) of oil per year and saving 5%, the cost pay back period might be calculated at $\$300 \div (5\% \text{ of } \$2700 = \$135) = 2.2 \text{ years}$.

You may save even more if the plants growing near the walls grow better with warmer walls!