Building America Solution Center WebinarJuly 22, 2015





Put New Tools and Content on the Building America Solution Center to Work for You!

CHRISSI ANTONOPOULOS

Pacific NW National Laboratory

Overview



2015 has been an exciting year for the Building America Solution Center! Along with continuous content additions, there are many new features we'd like to share with you:

- EPA Indoor airPLUS checklist manager
- A new sales tool
- Over 80 videos
- Existing homes expanded content and navigation

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WHAT IS THE BUILDING AMERICA SOLUTION CENTER?



- ➤ It is an online tool designed to provide building professionals with fast, free and reliable building science and efficiency knowledge.
- ➤ At the heart of the Building America Solution Center are the guides -- a compilation of content covering eight critical topics for more than 150 individual measures (and growing).
- ➤ Users can also use a browser to view galleries of content -- such as images, CAD files or case studies -- or filter the results by keyword.

WHO USES THE BUILDING AMERICA SOLUTION CENTER?

- It is designed for anyone interested in accessing technical information about residential construction.
- Over 150,000 unique visitors per year and growing!
- Over 2,000 registered users including architects, builders, raters, code officials, consultants, contractors, editors, educators, engineers, and many others.

WHY USE THE BUILDING AMERICA SOLUTION CENTER?

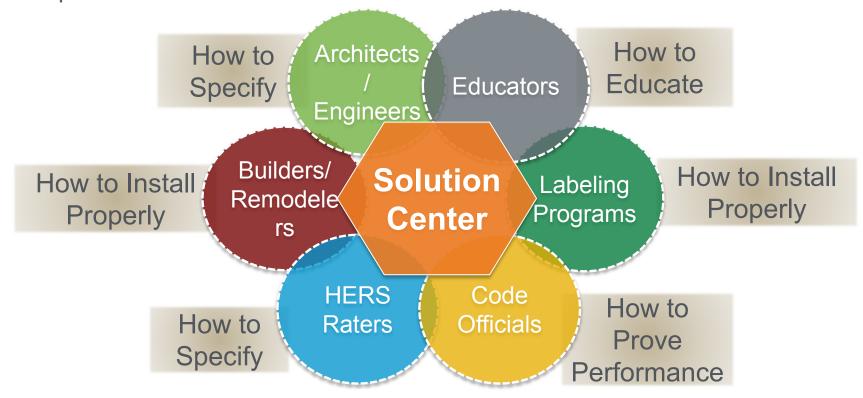
- Quickly access technical specifications supporting Zero Energy Ready Home, ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, Indoor airPLUS, and Water Sense programs.
- > Access codes & standards, climate zone info, and installation guidance.

https://basc.energy.gov

SNAPSHOT OF BUILDING AMERICA SOLUTION CENTER CONTENT:



- ➤ 175+ full guides providing cutting edge information about energy efficient building science applications
- > 1,300+ images
- > 115+ CAD drawings
- ➤ 175+ proven performance case studies
- > 375+ peer-reviewed references & resources



Building America Solution Center



The Solution Center supports many programs:







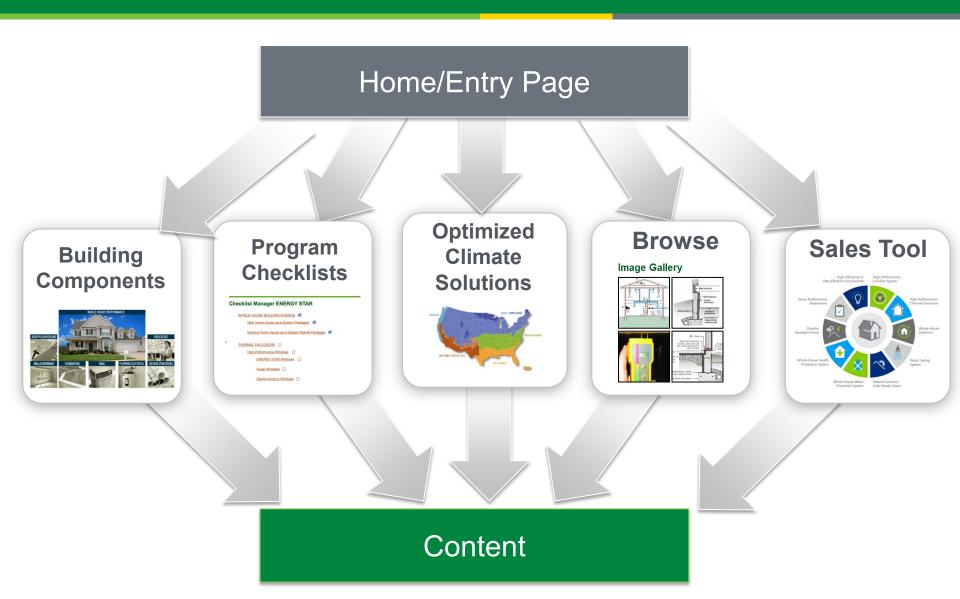






Access content through a variety of tools





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The Building America Solution Center provides access to expert information on hundreds of high-performance construction topics, including air sealing and insulation, HVAC components, windows, indoor air quality, and much more. Click on the links below to explore the Solution Center.



Search

Guides Alphabetically



Find by ENERGY STAR

Checklist



As a community driven tool, we welcome your <u>comments</u> on how to continuously improve the Solution Center. If you are interested in submitting content, please become a <u>registered user</u> and see the <u>criteria for submissions</u>.

THANK YOU! Li Ling Young for providing substantive comments on window flashing leading to improvements to Solution Center content.

RECENTLY ADDED/UPDATED GUIDES

Ventilation Air Inlet Locations
Last Updated: January 6, 2015

Reduce Pest Intrusion

Last Updated: January 5, 2015

Air Sealing Attached Garage

Last Updated: December 29, 2014

More Guides →

RECENTLY ADDED CONTENT

Right – Apply sealant around penetrations through foundation walls and along foundation wall seams Image Posted: January, 2015

Evaluation of Ventilation Strategies in New Construction Multifamily Buildings

Reference Posted: January, 2015

Code Notes: Whole-House Mechanical Ventilation Reference Posted: January, 2015



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Indoor airPLUS Checklist



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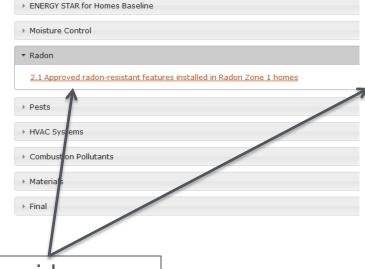
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EPA Indoor airPLUS



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Indoor airPLUS che measures included in the EPA Indoor airPLUS program requirements. the same order and numbering as those in the EPA Indoor airPLUS V associated with the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home program are disple requirements fulfills the "Indoor Air Quality" section of the DOE Zero requirements see EPA's Construction Specifications document. P to the Scope tabs in the guides. For additional DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Website.



Find guidance supporting Indoor airPLUS

Vertical Radon Ventilation Pipe

Please Register or Login to Provide Feedback.



Scope Description Success Climate Training CAD Compliance More Sales

Scope

Install a vertical ventilation pipe as a passive radon vent system to prevent the accumulation of radon and soil gasses in the home.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends, but does not require, that all homes built with radon-resistant features in EPA Radon Zone 1 pre-emptively include a radon vent fan. EPA also recommends, but does not require, radon-resistant features for homes built in EPA Radon Zones 2 and 3. EPA further recommends that all homes built in EPA Radon Zones 2 and 3 with radon-resistant features be tested for radon prior to occupancy. A radon vent fan should be installed in the ventilation pipe when the test result indicates radon concentrations of >= 4 picocuries per liter inside the home (the EPA action level).



The vertical ventilation pipe runs from the foundation to the roof and serves as a passive sub-slab depressurization system that effectively reduces radon levels in the home. Follow these general steps to construct a passive radon ventilation system.

- 1. Determine vent pipe size and location.
- Lay a perforated pipe or a collection mat around the foundation perimeter and insert a vertical "T."
- 3. Place the concrete slab or polyethylene vapor barrier or both around the vertical "T" and
- 4. Install the vertical pipe.
- 5. Run the pipe through the roof.

DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Notes

The DOE Zero Energy Ready Home program requires that builders comply with EPA Indoor airPLUS. The Indoor airPLUS checklist (Item 2.1) requires that builders construct homes in EPA Radon Zone 1 with radon-resistant features to conform to ASTM E1465; or IRC, Appendix F; or NFPA 5000, Chapter 49. Consult EPA's "Building Radon Out "" for general guidance on installing radon-resistant features.

For additional information see the Compliance tab.

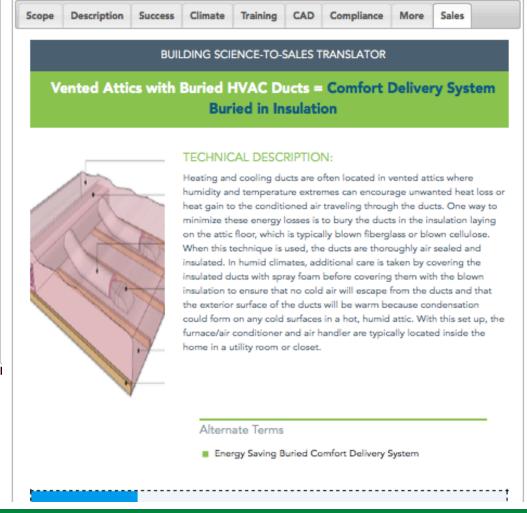
Guide Tabs



Ducts Buried in Attic Insulation

Please Register or Login to Provide Feedback.





Each Guide contains:

- Scope of work
- Description (how to install)
- Ensuring Success (safety, planning)
- Climate specific information
- Training (images, presentations, videos)
- CAD drawings
- Compliance information
- External resources and case studies
- Sales Tool

Sales Tool



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Browse by 10 different building topics.

Sales Tool

Housing industry leaders today are successfully building and selling high-performance new and existing homes. However, many stakeholders are frustrated that the transaction process fails to recognize the value associated with lower cost of ownership, greater comfort, improved health, ensured combustion safety, and more durability. Communicating the value of high-performance homes begins by using terminology for measures that consistently convey the improved consumer experience, rather than the engineering function. This is an important and powerful first step which is fully under our control, particularly if we facilitate a collective impact process engaging all stakeholders to develop and embrace this new language of 'value'.

The goal of this Building Science-to-Sales Translator is to provide a new glossary of sales themes that can be used across the industry to consistently reinforce the value of high-performance homes. Each term includes a list of 'alternate terms' that represent one of six value propositions: Engineered Comfort, Healthful Environment, Ultra Efficient, Advanced Technology, Quality Built, and Enhanced Durability. Use the tool below to explore sales themes that relate to each primary area of a high-performance home.



The Sales Tool provides a new glossary of sales themes that can be used across the industry to consistently reinforce the value of high-performance

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Natural Comfort/ Solar Ready Home

Whole-House Water

Protection System

Sales Tool



- Translated Term: provides a translation from the technical building science term to a value-based theme.
- Technical Description: A brief overview of the technical specifications of the measure.
- Alternate Terms: represent one of six value propositions: Engineered Comfort, Healthful Environment, Ultra Efficient, Advanced Technology, Quality Built, and Enhanced Durability.
- Sales Message: A detailed statement capturing the value of high performance building science measures.
- Access the Sales Tab from any BASC guide.

Sales Tool



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BUILDING SCIENCE-TO-SALES TRANSLATOR

HVAC Ducts In Conditioned Space = Interior Comfort Delivery System



TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION:

Heating and cooling equipment and ducts are often located in uninsulated attics and crawlspaces where humidity and temperature extremes can prematurely age the equipment and encourage unwanted heat loss or heat gain to the conditioned air traveling through the ducts. If the ducts are not tightly air sealed, conditioned air can escape from the ducts, resulting in energy loss and potential moisture damage, or unfiltered attic or crawlspace air can be drawn into the ducts and distributed throughout the home. Interior comfort delivery systems with the air handler and ducts located

Delivery System
■ Energy Saving Interior
Comfort Delivery System

Advanced Interior Comfort

Alternate Terms

inside the conditioned environment of the home minimize the effects of duct leakage. Any conditioned air that does leak from the ducts leaks into the conditioned areas of the home. This saves money by ensuring conditioned air produced by the comfort equipment is not wasted in places like the attic or crawlspace.

Interior Comfort
Delivery System
Sales Message

Interior comfort delivery systems are installed inside the conditioned space rather than in unconditioned spaces. What this means to you is full comfort with much less wasted energy. Wouldn't you rather have your heating and cooling delivered from inside your home rather than effectively outdoors?

Each term has a translation, alternate terms, technical description and consumer sales message.

Sales Tool Customization





VIVID LIVING HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT





Fresh Air

- · Supply Fresh Air System
- · Odor and Moisture Control Fans
- High-Capture Filtration Technology

Quiet

- · Quiet Window Techonology
- · Quiet Wall Technology

Moisture Control

- Drv-bv-Design Construction
- · Moisture Control System Whole House
- · Moisture Controlled Comfort System
- · Moisture Controlled Windows
- Moisture Controlled Lower Level

Pest Control

- · Bug Control Barrier
- Pest Screened Home

Outdoor Contaminent Control

- · Contaminant Sealed Construction
- · Contaminant Sealed Comfort Delivery
- · Dust and Pollen Barrier
- · Radon Controlled Home

Chemical Control

- · Formaldehyde Controlled Home
- · VOC Controlled Home

Fume Control

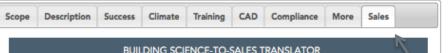
- · Carbon Monoxide Controlled Equipment
- · Carbon Monoxide Controlled Fireplace
- · Fume Controlled Garage

Users can customize the Sales Tool (coming this summer):

- Add your logo.
- Create lists of high performance measures based on your building techniques.
- Measures are described using the sales message.
- Save and print out worksheets to share with consumers.

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Sale Tab in BASC Guides



BUILDING SCIENCE-TO-SALES TRANSLATOR

High-R Floor Insulation = High-Efficiency or Ultra-Efficient Floor Insulation



TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION:

A poorly insulated floor can cause heat loss and uncomfortably cold floors. High-efficiency and ultra-efficient floor insulation combats heat loss through the floor by using generous amounts of properly installed insulation that stays in place in full contact with the underside of the subfloor long after the home is built. High-efficiency insulation meets or exceeds the insulation levels required by the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC); ultra-efficient insulation provides 50% more insulation than the IECC 2009 standard.

Alternate Terms

- High-Efficiency or Ultra-Efficient Floor Insulation
- Enhanced Comfort Floor Insulation
- Enhanced Quiet Floor Insulation
- Advanced Floor Insulation

High-Efficiency or **Ultra-Efficient** Floor Insulation Sales Message High-efficiency floor insulation helps provide added thermal protection. What this means to you is less wasted energy along with enhanced comfort and quiet. Knowing there is one opportunity to optimize performance during construction, wouldn't you agree it's a great oppo0rtunity to meet or exceed future codes?

Find Sales Themes throughout BASC on the "Sales" tab without navigating through the Sales Tool

Videos

- BASC now has a library of over 80 videos, ranging from air sealing and HVAC to window and indoor air quality topics.
- Videos are imbedded into guide Training Tabs, but can also be searched and filtered separately, just like our photo gallery.
- Filter videos by keyword to find specific topics.

Video Library



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Videos



Insulation Installation (RESNET Grade 1) - Part 1

Courtesy Of: Certainteed

Video describing how to properly install the OPTIMA insulation system.



Light Tubes

Publication Date: July, 2015 Courtesy Of: SolarLight

Video describing how to install light tubes.



Mini-Split (Ductless) Heat Pumps (1)

Publication Date: July, 2015 Courtesy Of: <u>Risinger Homes</u>

Video describing mini split ductless heat pumps.



Mini-Split (Ductless) Heat Pumps (2)

Publication Date: July, 2015 Courtesy Of: Zero Energy Homes

Video describing mini split ductless heat pumps.



No Class I Vapor Retarders on Interior Side of Exterior Walls in Warm-Humid

Climates

Publication Date: July, 2015 Courtesy Of: Train2Build

Video describing vapor retarders used in Warm-Humid climates.



No Excessive Coiled or Looped Flex Ducts

Publication Date: July, 2015 Courtesy Of: <u>Train2Build</u>

Video describing proper flex duct installation.

FILTER BY BASC KEYWORDS:

Air Sealing (33)

Installation (25)

Insulation (23)

Walls (16)

Water Management (14)

Ducts (12)

Attics (11)

HVAC Equipment (11)

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Sill Plate (4)

Windows (4)

Show more

Browse videos by topic

Videos in BASC Guides



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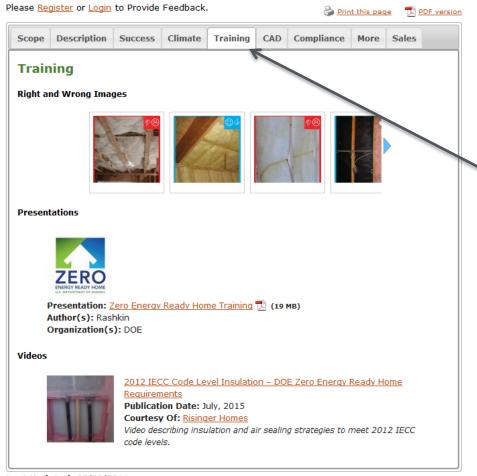
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2012 IECC Code Level Insulation – DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Requirements



Find videos in the training tab of BASC guides

Last Updated: 05/09/2014

Building Components Tool



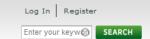
- **COMING SOON!**
- The Building Components tool is being re-designed to streamline the integration of existing homes guides.
- This tool will focus on making existing homes guidance accessible for users.
- Guides applicable to both new and existing homes will have a new tab with existing homes information. Guides specific to existing homes will follow the traditional BASC outline.

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Building Components



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Building Components

Click on the component images for a list of corresponding component subcategories. Select one subcategory to display a list of related Guides.



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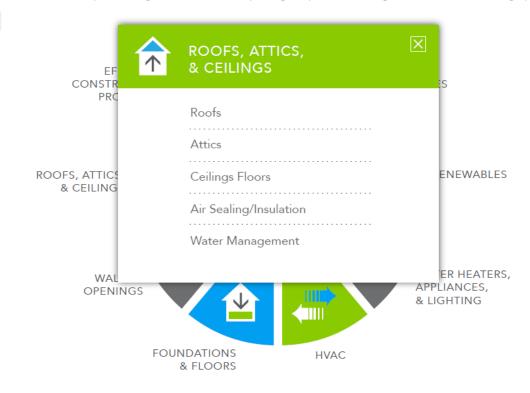
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Click on the component images for a list of corresponding component subcategories. Select one subcategory to display a list of related Guides.



Building Components Resource GuideLanding Page



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Based on selections, land on a list of relevant Guides.

Building Components

Walls/Openings - Air Sealing/Insulation

The guides on this page present information about wall structures, such as advanced framing, double walls, ICFs and SIPs. Guides are presented in alphabetical order. Use the filters to the right of the page to further focus your search based on construction type, keywords or trades.

Solution Center Guides

Attic Knee Walls

This guides describes how to insulate and air seal attic knee walls and floor joist cavities under knee walls.

Capillary Break Beneath Slab - Polyethylene Sheeting or Rigid Insulation Over Aggregate

Guide describing how to install a capillary break under a slab foundation using either polyethylene sheeting or rigid insulation installed over aggregate.

Continuous Rigid Insulation Sheathing/Siding

This guide describes installation procedures for continuous rigid insulation to help provide thermal protection, reduce thermal bridging and provide a moisture barrier.

Double Wall Framing

Guide describing construction and insulation techniques for double wall framing.

Double Walls

This guide describes air barrier and insulation installation, along with air sealing for double walls - half or full walls included in a home design as an architectural feature that provides a more dimensional appearance.

Ducts in Dropped Ceilings

Guide describing method for installing ducts in a duct chase above a dropped ceiling.

Exterior Surface of Below-Grade Walls

MY FIELD KITS

North Portland Residential

13 item

General Air Sealing Guidance

4 items

San Francisco Challenge Home Project #1



New Field Kit

CURRENT SELECTION

157 Guides

FILTER BY CONSTRUCTION TYPE

New Homes
Existing Homes

FILTER BY KEYWORD

Framing
Materials
Air Sealing

Filter by construction type and keyword.



BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE

Building America Optimized Solutions for New Homes:

Hot- Dry Climate

CLIMATE ZONE MAPS





Figure 1. Map of Building America climate regions (top) for program reporting and IECC climate zones (bottom) as a



The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Building America program has been a source of innovations in residential building energy performance, durability, and affordability for nearly 20 years. This world-class research program partners with many of the top U.S. home builders, contractors, and manufacturers to bring cutting-edge solutions and resources to market.

The most recent goal of the Building America program has been to demonstrate how cost-effective strategies can reduce home energy use by more than 30% in new homes, in all climate regions, by 2015. As part of the strategy to prove that this level of performance is achievable in the market, DOE created a labeling program called the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) program.

Working together, Building America and the ZERH programs have created this series of optimized solutions to demonstrate how builders have achieved these high savings goals. These optimized solutions provide guidance to other builders for cost effectively meeting the 30% energy savings goal in their climate zones.

Building America's five major climate regions include: cold'very-cold, mixed-humid, hot-humid, hot-dry/mixed-dry and marine. These climate regions are outlined in Figure 1, along with a map of the IECC climate regions for comparison. This document outlines the Building America recommendations for achieving 30% in the hot-dry climate resion.

The hot-dry climate performance package detailed in Table 1 uses common building practices to meet the performance criteria of 30% energy savings. Due to the tradeoff decisions that are made when building a home, there are hundreds of ways to meet the 30% performance criteria. The table lists common recommendations. To capture as many alternatives as possible, Table 1 includes an "Options" column on the fur right, which provides ways to meet the various criteria listed.

- ➤ Building America and the Zero Energy Ready Home Program created recommended measure packages used by builders to meet or exceed the 2009 IECC by 30% in all climate zones.
- ➤ This content is now a standalone tool in the Solution Center.
- Each climate zone page includes direct access to proven performance case studies.
- PDF documents are also available.

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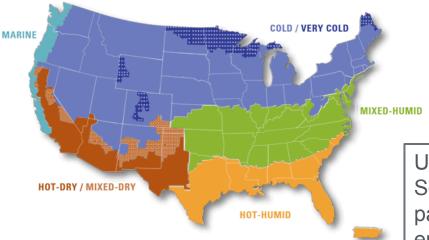
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Optimized Climate Solutions

The Building America Program, funded by the Department of Energy (DOE), has worked for the last five years to reach the next level of cost effective energy performance in homes (approximately 30% above the B10 Benchmark — roughly consistent with the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code). To prove to industry that this level of performance is achievable and market viable, DOE created a labeling program called the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH). The climate-specific guidance in this section of the Building America Solution Center provides detailed information on optimized solutions that meet or exceed the ZERH program requirements, cost effectively.

Use the interactive map below to find climate-specific guidance on Building America's Optimized Solutions for New Homes. For more information about climate designations, see the Building America Guide to Determining Climate Regions by County ...



MY FIELD KITS

Zero Energy Ready Home Project #1

21 item

New Construction Specs

6 items

Portland Oregon Rennovation

4 items

Indoor airPLUS

items



Building America's Optimized Solutions for New Homes can help you meet or exceed the requirements of the Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) program.



Use the new Optimized Climate Solutions tool to access building packages designed to achieve 30% energy savings better than the 2009 IECC, by climate zone

Optimized Climate Solutions

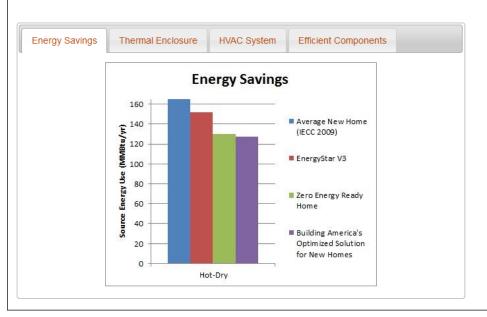


Hot-Dry/Mixed-Dry

This Building America Optimized Solution describes a set of building practices necessary to achieve the next step in energy performance for new homes (approximately 30% energy savings above the B10 Benchmark . - roughly consistent with the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code). This package of measures meets and exceeds DOE's Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) program requirements and was selected for its performance in the following areas:

- Energy Savings
- Affordability
- Buildability
- Durability
- . Healthy Indoor Environment

The high performance builders profiled in the case studies found below the interactive box show just a few examples of the hundreds of ways a builder can meet the premium levels of energy savings Building America strives for, while qualifying for the ZERH. Print the Optimized Solution for the Hot-Dry/Mixed-Dry Climate .





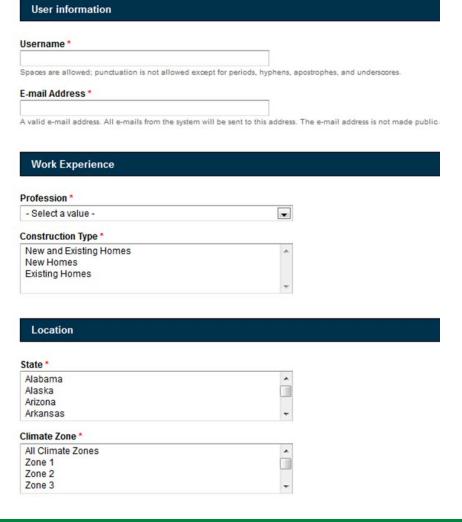
For each climate zone, find:

- Energy savings data
- Guidance for thermal enclosure, HVAC and efficient components
- Detailed case studies

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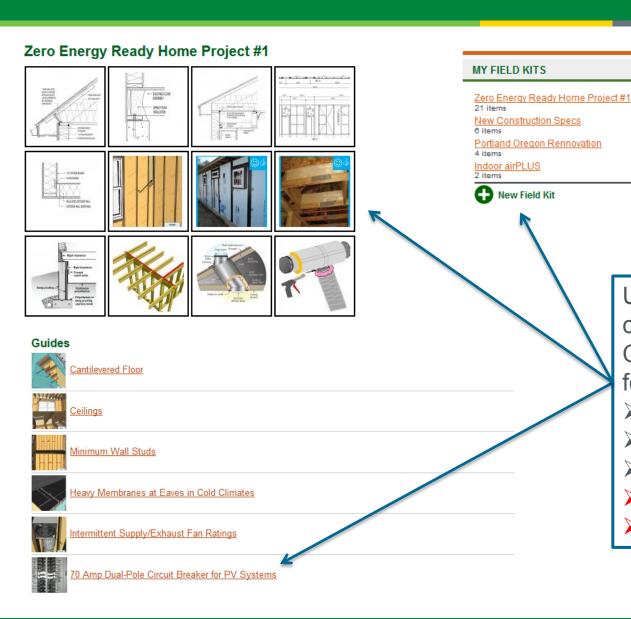
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Customizable Field Kits



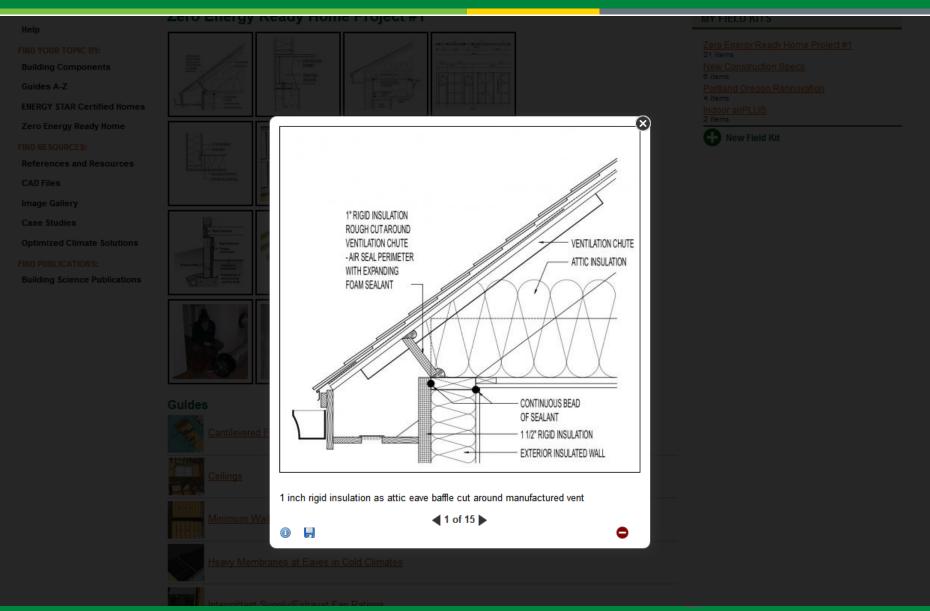


Use the My Field Kits tool to customize your Solution Center content by creating folders for:

- Guides
- > Images
- > CAD Files
- Videos
- Sales Materials

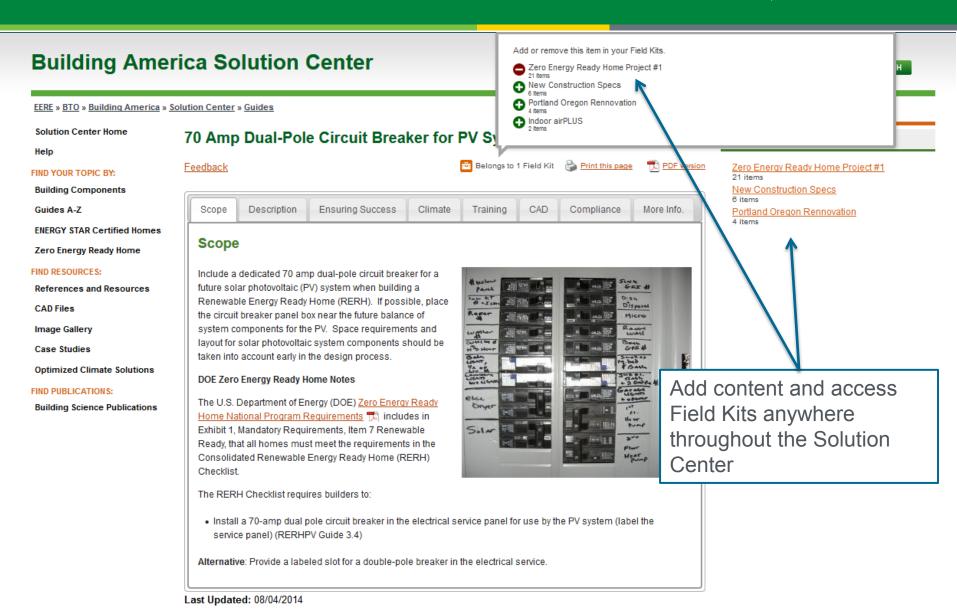
Access Media Directly from Field Kits





Add Any Guide to Field Kits





Solutions Mobile Application





Access your Building America Field Kits remotely using the new "Solutions" mobile application for Android and iOS. Access the iOS app through the Apple store, and use the link below for the Android app.



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from computers

Coming Soon



- ENERGY STAR Version 3, Revision 8
- Redesigned Home Page
- Expanded Existing Home Content
- Sales Tool Customized Sales Materials
- Updated Building Science Publications
- Updated Mobile Apps
- WaterSense Checklist

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Also accessible through the Building America Website at:

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