Building America Update – January 4, 2013

This announcement brings you the latest information about news, activities, and publications from the U.S. Department of Energy's Building America program.

Building America Sessions at International Builders Show

If you are planning to attend the International Builders' Show on January 22-24, 2013, don't miss these dynamic Building America presentations taking place there:

Date/Time/Location	Title/Speaker	Summary
Jan. 22-24; 3:15-4:00 PM each day DuPont Booth	**Home of the Future** Sam Rashkin, U.S. Department of Energy	*The DOE Challenge Home—an ambitious successor to the Builders Challenge program—represents a whole new level of home performance, with rigorous requirements that ensure outstanding levels of energy savings, comfort, health, and durability*
Jan. 23; 8:30-10:00 AM North 262	**Building Energy Efficient Homes on a Budget** Ren Anderson (NREL), Ed Hauck, Vernon McKown, Monica Wheaton	*This panel discussion will explore different options for improving the energy efficiency of the homes you build, without adding significant costs. It will include a review of data related to energy efficient construction methods, challenges builders face to incorporate these methods, and examples of successful construction and market outreach strategies.*
Jan. 23, 11:45 AM-12:05 PM IBS Live, Booth N1339	**Building America Solution Center: A Resource Tool for Innovating New and Existing Homes** Sam Rashkin, U.S. Department of Energy	*This new online resource provides easy access to a wealth of world-class building science and energy efficiency information from DOE's Building America program. The user-friendly interface ensures you find the information you need on any high performance home topic within seconds.*
Jan. 24; 8:30-10:00 AM North 254-256	**Deep Energy Retrofit: Improving the Energy Efficiency of the Existing Housing Stock** Ted Clifton, Tom Kenney, NAHB Research Center	*In this session, builders and remodelers can learn what's needed to expand their business by offering energy-efficient retrofits. Deep energy retrofits involve removing existing siding and adding whole-house insulation and air sealing, along with an upgraded HVAC system. The presentation will include results from a three-home study conducted by the NAHB Research Center, examining the energy savings, costs and best practices for deep energy retrofits.*

Register Now for the 2013 Technical Update Meeting

Join the U.S. Department of Energy's Building America program at the 2013 Technical Update Meeting scheduled for April 29-30, 2013, in Denver, Colorado. This meeting will showcase Building America's world-class building science expertise for high performance homes, presented in a dynamic format of expert presentations, panel discussions, and audience participation. This meeting is free and open to the public. Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible!

Ongoing Technical Series in Remodeling Magazine

Check out the September and October 2012 issues of *Remodeling* magazine for articles that are part of an ongoing Building America technical series featured in the magazine.

- Attic Air Sealing: This article offers tips to sealing attics to reduce energy costs and improve indoor air quality and comfort.
- Tankless Gas Water Heaters: Learn about a water heating appliance that delivers big energy savings in a small package.

Watch for additional Building America articles in future issues of *Remodeling* magazine!

New Publications from Building America

The Building America Publications Library offers an extensive collection of technical reports, measure and strategy guidelines, case studies, and other resources to help you boost energy efficiency in new and existing homes. Here is a sampling of some of our most recent publications:

Prior research suggests that poor programmable thermostats usability may prevent their effective use to save energy. The Building America research team, Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy, hypothesized that home occupants with high-usability thermostats would be more likely to use them to save energy than people with a basic thermostats. In this report, the team discusses results of a project in which the team monitored and compared programmable thermostats with basic thermostats in an affordable housing apartment complex.

High-R Walls for Remodeling: Wall Cavity Moisture Monitoring

This research focused on the performance of wall systems, and in particular, the moisture characteristics inside the wall cavity and in the wood sheathing. While this research initially addresses new home construction, the goal is to address potential moisture issues in wall cavities of existing homes when insulation and air sealing improvements are made.

Ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) show promise for reducing house energy consumption, and a desuperheater can potentially further reduce energy consumption where the heat pump from the space conditioning system creates hot water.

Home Energy Displays: Consumer Adoption and Response

The focus of this project was to investigate the factors influencing consumer adoption of Home Energy Displays (HEDs) and to evaluate electricity consumption in households with basic HEDs versus enhanced feedback methods - web portals or alerts.

Measure Guideline: Wood Window Repair, Rehabilitation, and Replacement

This measure guideline provides information and guidance on rehabilitating, retrofitting, and replacing existing window assemblies in residential construction. The intent is to provide information regarding means and methods to improve the energy and comfort performance of existing wood window assemblies in a way that takes into consideration component durability, in-service operation, and long term performance of the strategies.

rformance communities are identified.

Additional reports published recently are:

- Field Evaluation of Programmable Thermostats
- Communication of Energy Efficiency Information to Remodelers: Lessons From Current Practice

Developing an Energy Performance Modeling Startup Kit

Visit the Building America Publications Library to access the entire catalog of publications to help improve efficiency of new and existing homes.

Please forward this announcement to colleagues who may be interested in subscribing to future Building America Updates.