

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

## **Industry Publications Highlight HVAC Issues**

### ***ECOHOME Magazine***

The September/October issue of [ECOHOME magazine](#) features an [article](#) about the prototype desiccant enhanced evaporative air conditioning (DEVap) system that may herald the next wave of energy efficient HVAC systems for high performance homes. This technology was developed through DOE's Building Technology Program as an energy saving alternative to the traditional way we cool homes. Visit the Building America website to learn about other cutting-edge residential [innovations](#), as well as key issues currently limiting implementation of high performance homes, as identified at the recent [meeting](#).

### ***Home Energy Magazine***

Read the online September/October issue of [Home Energy magazine](#) to learn about what it takes to convert a HVAC business into one that provides whole house performance contracting services. Based on a recently published Building America report, ***Strategy Guideline: Transitioning HVAC Companies to Whole House Performance Contractors***, [the article](#) describes the differences between the two types of businesses, and outlines effective transition strategies for HVAC companies shifting their focus to whole house performance contracting. Visit the Building [Publications Library](#) to read the full [strategy guideline](#).

### ***GreenBuildingAdvisor.com***

The next installment of Building America's "[What's Wrong With This Picture](#)" is now available on the [GreenBuildingAdvisor.com](#) website. This time, readers are invited to identify as many installation errors as they can spot in the photo of a window installed in the rough opening of a new home.

## **Upcoming DOE Challenge Home Orientation Webinar**

Please join us on **Wednesday, October 17, 2012 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM** Eastern time for a webinar about [DOE Challenge Home](#). The orientation is required for program participation.

During this webinar, you'll learn what makes the [DOE Challenge Home](#) the most comprehensive high performance home program available today. You'll receive background to help you understand the benefits of meeting the Challenge, including gaining market advantage and communicating the proposition to homebuyers. An overview of the technical specifications included in the DOE Challenge Home National Program Requirements will help you understand how to qualify homes prior to November 2012.

### **Space is limited.**

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/883560345>

## 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 your buildings. Here is a sampling of some of our most recent publications:

- **[Strategy Guideline: Proper Water Heater Selection](#):**  
This guide provides step-by-step procedures for evaluating preferred cost-effective options for energy efficient water heater alternatives based on local utility rates, climate, and anticipated loads. These procedures, developed both for individual water heater applications (both single and multi-family) and multifamily central systems, provide users with projections on operating cost savings over a 10-year time horizon for retrofit applications and on a cash flow basis for new construction.
- **[Steam System Balancing and Tuning for Multifamily Residential Buildings in Chicagoland](#)**  
Older heating systems often suffer from mis-investment—multiple contractors upgrading parts of systems in inadequate or inappropriate ways that reduce system functionality and efficiency—or from a lack of proper maintenance. This technical report addresses these barriers to information, contractor resources, and cost-savings. Building off of previous research, CNT Energy conducted a study to identify best practices for the methodology, typical costs, and energy savings associated with steam system balancing.
- **[Measure Guideline: Transitioning to a Tankless Water Heater](#)**  
This measure guideline provides information to help residential builders and retrofitters with the design, specification, selection, implementation, installation, and maintenance issues of transitioning from tank-type water heaters to tankless water heaters.
- **[Moisture and Structural Analysis for High Performance Hybrid Wall Assemblies](#)**  
Based on past experience in the Building America program, BSC has found that combinations of materials and approaches—in other words, systems—usually provide optimum performance. Integration is necessary, as described in this research project. The hybrid walls analyzed utilize a combination of exterior insulation, diagonal metal strapping, and spray polyurethane foam, and leave room for cavity-fill insulation. These systems can provide effective thermal, air, moisture, and water barrier systems in one assembly and provide structure.

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