



# RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

## Network View Newsletter

### News From the Field

#### New Solution Center Shares Proven Strategies for Energy Efficiency Programs

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proud to [announce](#) the launch of the [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#),

which is a repository of examples, lessons, and resources for residential energy efficiency programs. This free online resource draws on lessons learned from a \$500 million grant program, and includes virtual handbooks for successfully planning, operating, promoting, and evaluating residential energy efficiency programs.

The handbooks offer strategies for helping program administrators and home performance professionals deliver energy upgrades to homeowners. Each handbook draws on the experiences of multiple programs and contains resources such as case studies, tools, calculators, reports, videos, and presentations. Users can find information on business models, program designs, marketing and



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outreach, financing, contractor engagement, workforce development, and evaluation and data collection.

To ensure the Solution Center remains a current repository for knowledge gained from ongoing program experience, DOE plans to continue updating content with key takeaways from [Better Buildings Residential Network members](#), [Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Sponsors](#), and others. Users are invited to explore the Solution Center and [forward additional materials](#) for possible inclusion or feedback to improve the user experience.

Learn more by [registering](#) for a demonstration webinar on **Wednesday, November 19, 2014**, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern. DOE will showcase the Solution Center's content and functionality, including how its resources can help your residential energy efficiency program.

## Residential Network Partnerships Toolkit Promotes Strategic Relationships

The Better Buildings Residential Network has developed a [Partnerships Toolkit](#) with resources to help energy efficiency organizations engage in partnerships that leverage resources and strengthen their programs. The toolkit was developed as the first Residential Network Voluntary Initiative, which provides a forum for members to join together to address a common need or opportunity for energy efficiency programs. The toolkit includes templates, tools, guides, and examples to help you create and maintain successful partnerships.

Thank you to the  
Residential Network



## Upcoming Peer Exchange Calls\*

Residential Network members are invited to participate in these topical calls that are more discussion than webinar and serve as a forum to ask questions and bounce ideas off peers. Members can access Peer Exchange Call registration links and past call summaries through announcement emails sent to Residential Network members or via the Residential Network Group on the Home Energy Pros website. [Sign in](#) to access the Residential Network Group. Non-members wishing to gain access to these valuable resources and many others are invited to [join](#) the Better Buildings Residential Network Group to participate in the online community on Home Energy Pros. To receive emails about upcoming calls, email [bbresidentialnetwork@ee.doe.gov](mailto:bbresidentialnetwork@ee.doe.gov).

**December 11**

member volunteers who helped made this toolkit possible by providing resources, feedback, and review:

- Nell Boyle ([City of Roanoke, Virginia](#))
- Shirley Cyr ([Clean Energy Works](#))
- Rachel DiFranco ([City of Fremont, California](#))
- Zaheen Hussain and Nicole Miller ([GTECH Strategies](#))
- Rob Jones ([Efficiency First Kansas City](#))
- Jim Mikel ([Spirit Foundation](#))
- Shane Monday ([Hub Energy Group](#))
- Kevin Schleith ([Building Sustainable Solutions, LLC](#))
- Erick Shambarger ([Milwaukee Energy Efficiency](#))

[Start using the Partnerships Toolkit](#) today, and look for new opportunities to get involved in upcoming Residential Network Voluntary Initiatives.

## Comment on Draft Program Benchmarking Guide and Attend an Upcoming Webinar

DOE has been developing a [Guide for Benchmarking Residential Energy Efficiency Program Progress](#) to make benchmarking more common among residential energy efficiency programs. Work on the guide started more than a year ago with input from Residential Network members and Home Performance with ENERGY STAR



### Program Sustainability: Update on Revenue Strategies

12:30–2:00 PM EST  
[Register now](#)

### Combining Solar and Home Performance Services\*\*

3:00–4:30 PM EST  
[Register now](#)

\*\*Note: This call is open to non-members of the Residential Network.

*Residential Network Peer Exchange Calls will be taking a winter break, but [stay tuned](#) for the 2015 call schedule.*

## Find the Latest Peer Exchange Call Summaries\*

Residential Network members can now [review summaries](#) from the following calls:

- October 9, 2014: [Incorporating Energy Efficiency into Disaster Recovery Efforts](#)
- October 9, 2014: [Making Evaluations Work for Your Program: Tips for Success](#)
- September 25, 2014: [Outreach to Faith-Based Organizations](#)
- September 25, 2014:

Sponsors. The guide is intended to help residential program managers perform the following:

- Identify metrics that measure their goals.
- Develop a program benchmarking plan to identify their program's strengths and weaknesses.
- Measure progress for years to come by establishing a baseline of performance.
- Gain insights from peer comparisons.
- Communicate success with key stakeholders.

To learn more about the guide, [register for a webinar](#) that will take place on Wednesday, December 3, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern.

Residential Network members are also invited to [review the draft guide](#) and submit comments to [Dale Hoffmeyer](#) by December 31, 2014.

## Nexus Energy Center Unveils Energy-Efficient Tiny Home

Better Buildings Residential Network member [Nexus Energy Center](#) recently unveiled its first tiny, energy-efficient home. As reported in the [July–August issue of the Network View](#), the nonprofit organization aimed to raise \$5,000 online to build the TRES (Tiny, Renewable, and Environmentally Sustainable) Project in Huntsville, Alabama. Built with all the amenities you would expect in a traditional home, the 250-square-foot structure will be used to educate contractors, businesses,



*Nexus Energy Center's Chad Wright shows off the tiny home's insulation. (Photo: Lucy Berry)*

[Strategies to Overcome Split-Incentive Tenant/Landlord Issues](#)

### Related Events

[DOE's Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center Webinar](#)

November 19, 2014  
3:00–4:00 PM EST

[DOE's Overview of a Draft Guide for Benchmarking Residential Program Progress Webinar](#)

December 3, 2014  
2:30–3:00 PM EST

[2014 Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference](#)

December 7–10, 2014  
Washington, DC

[Energy Center of Wisconsin's Better Buildings: Better Business Illinois Conference](#)

February 26–27, 2015  
Rosemont, IL

[Energy Center of Wisconsin's Better Buildings: Better Business Wisconsin Conference](#)

March 11–13, 2015  
Wisconsin Dells, IL

[DOE's Better Buildings Summit](#)

May 27–29, 2015  
Washington, DC



- Assessment reports with estimated costs for proposed energy upgrades and estimated annual energy savings for each proposed measure
- A quick checkup to assure that minimum health and safety requirements are met in the home
- Installation of several free, low-cost energy saving measures

“I got new appliances approved through the program and new storm and front doors because the old ones weren’t energy efficient. I also got a new exhaust fan in one of my bathrooms. With all this in, I can already see the difference,” said program participant Alana Gaymon.

[Learn more](#) about NYSERDA’s new program.

map out a business model and strategy—including mission, goal, program offerings, and audience—based on what partners can contribute to my work and what I can contribute to theirs. I’ve referred to the toolkit over and over. It has prompted many ideas to improve my business that I wouldn’t have had without it.”

– Kevin Schleith of [Building Sustainable Solutions, LLC](#), a Better Buildings Residential Network member

## Meet the Members

### Local Governments and Nonprofits Join the Residential Network

The Better Buildings Residential Network is pleased to welcome its newest members:

- The role of the [Monroe County Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission](#) in Indiana is to educate and engage with residents to create a healthier and more economically viable future. The Commission’s Energy Working Group implements energy conservation initiatives in alignment with the county’s Energy Plan.
- The [Arlington County, Virginia, Government](#) is a community partner within the Better Buildings Challenge and has set a goal to reduce energy intensity 20% by 2020. The county is served by the Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The [City of Charlottesville, Virginia](#), encourages residential energy efficiency through its Energy Efficient Building Tax

### \*Accessing Home Energy Pros

#### Non-Members of the Residential Network:

The [Better Buildings Residential Network Group on Home Energy Pros](#) is open exclusively to Residential Network members. To join the Residential Network, complete a [membership form](#).

#### Residential Network Members:

Residential Network members that are already Home Energy Pros Group members must [sign in](#) to view the associated links in this newsletter.

Members who have not yet signed up and seek access to these valuable resources are

Credit for residents whose homes have been [certified](#) by fellow Residential Network member LEAP.

- [Energy Conservation Works](#) is a nonprofit organization based in Jackson, Wyoming, that provides leadership, implementation, and education specific to energy conservation and sustainability.
- The [City of Bellevue, Washington](#), received an ENERGY STAR Award for improvements made at its city hall building in 2008. Since then, the city has undertaken energy-efficient lighting projects, partnered on residential energy improvement programs, and launched Web-based tools for engaging and educating residents.

Connect your organization with these programs. Sign up to become a Residential Network member by completing a [membership form](#).

invited to join the Better Buildings Residential Network Group to participate in the online community on Home Energy Pros. It's an easy, two-step process—[sign up](#) for Home Energy Pros, and then after receiving your confirmation email, request to join the Residential Network Group.

## Resource Corner

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### Catch Up on the Latest News and Reports

- "[LEAP Joins Governor as Virginia Energy Plan Officially Unveiled](#)" shares LEAP Executive Director Cynthia Adams' remarks at an event where Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe unveiled his Virginia Energy Plan (LEAP, October 2014).
- [The 2014 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#) uses data vetted by state energy officials to rank U.S. states in six categories—utility programs, transportation, building energy codes, combined heat and power, state initiatives, and appliance standards—to measure the progress of state policies and programs that save energy (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy [ACEEE], October 2014).

## Share The View

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Forward this email to colleagues or encourage them to sign up to receive each issue by sending their name, organization, and email address to [Better Buildings Residential Network Support](#).

Do you have something you would like to share with other members through the *Better Buildings Network View*? Send an email to [Better Buildings Residential Network Support](#) to submit your idea.

You are receiving this email from DOE's Better Buildings Residential Network. If you would like to unsubscribe, please contact [Better Buildings Residential Network Support](#).

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