

Home Energy Professional Certifications

Raising the bar in weatherization and home energy upgrade work

As the weatherization and home energy upgrade industries expand and gain recognition, several questions arise:

- How do home energy workers know that they are being trained using the latest technology and are learning all of the necessary requirements for effectively completing an energy upgrade?
- How can employers ensure that they are hiring individuals who can complete home energy upgrades in a complete and efficient manner?
- How do consumers/homeowners confirm that they are getting qualified professionals to work in their homes?

The Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals project—a strategic partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the home energy upgrade industry—was designed to address these concerns. The project leverages 30+ years of DOE weatherization experience,

“The new Home Energy Professional certifications will raise the bar for weatherization professionals and home performance contractors across the country. To achieve certification, candidates must demonstrate not only a strong knowledge of the subject matter but also must have a proven level of essential work experience. As the industry continues to grow and the focus on quality intensifies, these certifications will become critical to establishing a qualified workforce geared for success.”

— Brad Turner, Weatherization Program Manager for Southface Energy Institute



Components of the Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals Project

1. Define the Work

Standard Work Specifications for Home Energy Upgrades describe the outcomes for energy efficiency measures.

2. Validate the Training

Training organizations for home energy professionals base their curricula on common, minimum standards.

3. Certify the Worker

Four Home Energy Professional worker certifications demonstrate worker capabilities to perform high-quality home energy upgrades that are consistent within the industry.



as well as extensive industry input to support high-quality home energy upgrade work through standard work specifications, accredited training programs, and voluntary national worker certifications.

About the Certifications

The certification component of the Guidelines project was designed to create meaningful and lasting careers for weatherization workers. Intended for experienced home energy professionals, the four new certifications focus on the most common jobs in the industry: energy auditor, retrofit installer technician, crew leader, and quality control inspector.

The new Home Energy Professional certifications require more upfront professional job experience as a prerequisite, in addition to candidates passing both a written

and practical exam. A critical component of the certification process is evaluating the knowledge, skills, and abilities of a candidate in the field.

How the Certifications Were Developed

These new advanced certifications are funded by DOE, developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and administered by the Building Performance Institute, Inc. (BPI). BPI is the first to administer the Home Energy Professional certifications; however, with the development of the four underlying Job Task Analyses (JTAs), the opportunity is available for other certifying bodies to offer these new certifications as well.

The International Organization for Standardization's ISO/IEC 17024:2003 standard provides a framework for the quality and rigor of the Home Energy Professional certification program. A committee of subject matter experts was convened by NREL to develop a certification blueprint that defined the prerequisites for each certification. These prerequisites can be found at: www.bpi.org/pilot. To apply for the new Home Energy Professional certifications, please visit: www.bpi.org/pilot.



The above map displays national testing sites, which are offering the new Home Energy Professional certifications.

“A credentialed workforce is another sign of the maturing weatherization and home energy upgrade industries in the United States. The four new weatherization job certifications help ensure that those who do this important work are both knowledgeable and experienced in the often complicated world of home performance. I am convinced professional certification is good for consumers, workers, and employers.”

— John Davies, Senior Trainer and Manager at the Building Performance Center

Photos (from front page): NREL/PIX 18028, NREL/PIX 18023, NREL/PIX 17951, NREL/PIX 18029, by Dennis Schroeder

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