



RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

Newsletter

News From the Field

Residential Network Member Pushes Energy-Efficient Affordable Housing in Buffalo, New York

Better Buildings Residential Network member [PUSH \(People United for Sustainable Housing\) Buffalo](#) broke ground in March 2014 on its [Massachusetts Avenue Sustainable Homes \(MASH\)](#) project. The initiative will create energy-efficient, affordable housing by renovating two vacant historic buildings and building one new multifamily structure. Part of the project's Community Benefit Agreement requires PUSH Buffalo to hire local contractors. Three people who are also residents in the neighborhood have been hired so far.



PUSH Buffalo representatives break ground on the latest MASH energy-efficient housing project.

“Taking two long-vacant historic properties and redeveloping them for affordable living while creating quality local jobs in the process is a great thing for this community,” PUSH Executive Director Aaron Bartley said.

April 2014

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Upcoming Peer Exchange Calls

Residential Network members that are already Home Energy Pros group members need to [sign in](#) to view the following links. Non-members wishing to

The MASH project is located within PUSH Buffalo's [Green Development Zone](#) in Buffalo's West Side neighborhood. The groundbreaking came on the heels of PUSH's Community Congress event, where 150 West Side residents weighed in on the changes they would like to see in their neighborhood, including parks, bike lanes, affordable housing, and infrastructure. [Learn more](#) about PUSH Buffalo's boots-on-the-ground approach.

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Releases New Sponsor Guide

Last month, the U.S.

Department of Energy

(DOE) released the [Home](#)

[Performance with ENERGY](#)

[STAR Sponsor Guide and Reference Manual \(v1.5\)](#) (Sponsor Guide),

the latest version of the technical operations guide for the national Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program, which takes a whole-house approach to improving the energy efficiency and comfort of homes. The Sponsor Guide, which was developed after more than a year of extensive program evaluation and stakeholder engagement, provides a platform for implementing a whole-house approach for achieving energy efficiency and improved overall performance in homes across the country. The guide is organized into seven sections geared toward new and existing program Sponsors, utilities, states, municipalities, financial institutions, nonprofit organizations, and other organizations promoting energy efficiency:

1. Use and Management of the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Mark
2. Program Design and Development
3. Workforce Development and Support
4. The Assessment
5. Project Installation
6. Quality Assurance
7. Tracking and Reporting



gain access to these valuable resources are invited to [join](#) the Better Buildings Residential Network Group to participate in the online community on Home Energy Pros.

April 10

Program Sustainability: Complementary Energy and Health Strategies

12:30–2:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

Data and Evaluation: Cost- Effectiveness Tests and Measuring Like a Utility

Rescheduled from

February 13, 2014

3:00–4:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

April 24

Marketing and Outreach: Working With Schools

12:30–2:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

Workforce/Business Partners: Contractor Rating and Feedback Systems

3:00–4:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

Related Events

[GLOBALCON 2014
Conference and Exposition](#)

April 9–10, 2014

Atlantic City, NJ

Each section includes a narrative of program requirements and checklists outlining the program's minimum requirements, as well as optional implementation guidance and suggested strategies based on lessons learned from successful residential programs nationwide. [Download the guide](#) or learn more about [Home Performance with ENERGY STAR](#), which reached its 330,000 completed projects milestone in 2013.

Online Tool Cuts Costs for Bulk Energy-Efficient Product Purchases

[StopWaste](#), in partnership with DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recently re-launched [Quantity Quotes](#), which facilitates bulk purchases of green and energy-efficient products. StopWaste is a local government public agency that manages waste reduction and energy efficiency programs in Alameda County, California—where it co-sponsored home energy tours and workshops with Better Buildings Neighborhood Program partner [Energy Upgrade California](#).

Better Buildings Residential Network members can use the Quantity Quotes platform to obtain competitive quotes on ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and equipment to support their energy efficiency programs, including:

- Light bulbs and fixtures
- Clothes washers
- Dehumidifiers
- Dishwashers
- Refrigerators
- Room air conditioners
- Fiberglass and cellulose insulation

StopWaste will add even more green building products in the near future. Visit the [Quantity Quotes website](#) to learn more.

[A Day of Home Performance Leadership: Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Partner Meeting](#)

April 28, 2014
Detroit, MI

[ACI 2014 National Home Performance Conference](#)

Apr. 29–May 1, 2014
Detroit, MI

[EPA's Climate Showcase Communities Replication Workshop](#)

April 30, 2014
Washington, DC

[ACEEE Energy Efficiency Finance Forum](#)

May 11–13, 2014
Washington, DC

Home Energy Pros Spotlight

How Do You See Your Role in the Home Performance Field?

[Join the conversation](#) on Home Energy Pros, where we are asking Better Buildings Residential Network Group members to share their plans for the ACI National Home Performance Conference and reflect on the role they play in home performance.

Climate Showcase Communities Program Hosts Free Workshop

EPA's Local Climate and Energy Program will host the [Climate Showcase Communities Replication Workshop](#) on April 30, 2014, in Baltimore, Maryland. EPA Climate Showcase Communities grantees that have piloted successful greenhouse gas mitigation projects will present their findings at this free, one-day workshop. Attendees will learn about best practices, tools, and resources that they can use to spark similar action in their own communities. [Register](#) to attend the workshop.



Note: You must be a Residential Network [member](#) to access our Home Energy Pros Group.

New Landscape Infographic Spruces Up Your Spring Outreach



Spring has officially sprung. A [well-designed landscape](#) not only adds curb appeal, but it can help improve a home's comfort and lower energy bills year-round. Carefully placed trees, for example, can reduce a home's energy use by as much as 25%. Whether your organization is hosting an Earth Month event in April or reminding customers to plant a tree this Arbor Day, April 25, help your springtime marketing

Meet the Members

Three New Members Plug Into the Residential Network

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

- [NeighborWorks® of Western Vermont](#) implements the [NeighborWorks H.E.A.T. \(Home Energy Assistance Team\) Squad](#), a Better Buildings Neighborhood Program partner. The nonprofit organization's mission is to strengthen the development of a regional economy by promoting safe, efficient, and affordable housing and community projects through education, technical assistance, and financial services.
- [M & K Electrical & Plumbing Heating & Air Conditioning](#) is a family-owned company with 25 years of experience in building, electrical, plumbing, and heating, ventilation, and air

conditioning (HVAC) services.

- [401\(e\) Home Energy Service](#) is a nonprofit energy efficiency organization that helps homeowners complete upgrades and donates all profits to be reinvested into other community programs.

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

Resource Corner

Awaken Your April Reading List With New Briefs and Blogs

Whether you are helping homeowners go green or save green for Earth Month this April, our latest reading list explores everything from scaling up home energy upgrades to the cost savings achieved through energy efficiency programs.

- [“BPI Launched Home Rating System Based on DOE’s Home Energy Score”](#) explains how the Building Performance Institute (BPI), a Home Energy Score partner, will use DOE’s tool as its official rating program for customers. (*Home Energy* blog, February 2014).
- [Climate Protection Partnerships 2012 Annual Report](#) includes final data measuring the performance and impact of several energy efficiency programs, including how ENERGY STAR helped Americans saved more than \$26 billion on their utility bills in 2012. (EPA’s Office of Atmospheric Programs, January 2014).
- [Residential Deep Energy Retrofits](#) explores how energy efficiency programs can scale up energy-efficient improvements to target deep energy savings in residential buildings (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy [ACEEE], March 2014).

campaign blossom with DOE’s latest [landscaping infographic](#).



“The cash flow increase brought about through the home energy savings has the same effect as a pay raise.”

– Keith Canfield, deputy manager of the William J. Clinton Foundation’s [Home Energy Affordability Loan \(HEAL\) program](#), a Better Buildings Residential Network member

- [*State Energy Efficiency Resource Standard \(EERS\) Activity*](#) outlines how 26 states have enacted long-term, binding energy savings targets, including passing legislation to enact formal Energy Efficiency Resource Standards (ACEEE, February 2014).
- [*The Best Value for America's Energy Dollar: A National Review of the Cost of Utility Energy Efficiency Programs*](#) reviews utility-sector energy efficiency program costs from 2009 to 2012 using data collected from reports by program administrators, including Better Buildings Residential Network member the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (ACEEE, March 2014).
- [*The Program Administrator Cost of Saved Energy for Utility Customer-Funded Energy Efficiency Programs*](#) asserts a direct connection between the maturation of energy efficiency as a resource and the need for consistent, high-quality data and periodic reporting of efficiency program costs and impacts (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, March 2014).
- [*Whole-House Solutions Case Study: Nexus Energy Homes, Frederick, Maryland*](#) analyzes the methods and lessons learned during Nexus Energy Homes' residential energy efficiency upgrades to new duplex homes in Maryland (DOE's Building America program, February 2014).
- [*Why Is Electricity Use No Longer Growing?*](#) reviews analyses that suggest energy efficiency programs and policies substantially impacted a national decrease in electricity use between 1993 and 2012 (ACEEE, February 2014).

Share The View

Forward this email to your colleagues or encourage them to sign up to receive each issue by asking them to send their 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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