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Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

DOE Zero Energy Ready Home

A note from Sam Rashkin: Zero is a big deal...get recognized for it

Applications for the second annual Housing Innovation Awards have just been posted. Opportunities to receive national recognition as an industry leader from a prestigious and trusted organization don't come around very often. This distinction allows builders to transform their core message from 'what you build' to 'why you build'. And in the case of award winning zero energy ready homes it's all about delivering a superior living experience. But, you have to apply. And of course you must have at least one DOE Zero Energy Ready Home (remember this used to be DOE Challenge Home) certified by June 30th, 2014. Which means it's also time to make sure your HERS rater is submitting all certified homes to DOE. The ball is in your court.

Applications for Housing Innovation Awards now available

The 2014 [Housing Innovation Awards](#) for the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home program will feature builders in custom, production and affordable categories who are leading a major housing industry transformation to zero energy ready homes.

Any [registered builder](#) who has certified a DOE Challenge Home or DOE Zero Energy Ready Home between April 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 is eligible to compete. Applications are due June 30, 2014. Please [contact us](#) if you need assistance.

Next Wednesday, May 21, 2014, from 12:00 – 1:00 PM EDT, Sam Rashkin and Christine Barbour will hold a webinar titled: [Leadership Recognition with Housing Innovation Awards](#). Learn about the application process and get tips for competing and winning to earn recognition that truly differentiates your homes and your business.

The 2014 Housing Innovation Awards ceremony will be held on September 23, 2014, at [EEBA's Excellence in Building Conference](#) in St. Louis, MO.

More solutions at your fingertips

[Building America Solution Center](#) capabilities are growing to meet your DOE Zero Energy Ready Home needs. The Solution Center provides

technical support for [ENERGY STAR for new homes](#) and today we will add a new checklist tool to help you certify [Zero Energy Ready Homes](#). The Solution Center checklist will match the program checklist stride for stride to provide technical information for meeting each step. Since the Zero Energy Ready Home program includes EPA's Indoor airPLUS and WaterSense programs, the Solution Center will also feature these checklists.

Our mobile apps – called Solutions - provide even more exciting tools for registered users to customize and access on the go. You can organize relevant content into Field Kits, which can be synchronized to your mobile device with the push of a button. Once synchronized, you can access content anytime, anywhere with or without cell or Wi-Fi coverage. Solution Center content includes guides on advanced framing, installation of ducts, insulation, HVAC and over 150 specific measures for constructing high-performance, energy-efficient buildings. Solutions mobile apps are available for Android tablets and smart phones running Android 4.0 or higher, and for iPad and iPhone devices running iOS 7.0 or higher. Android users can [download](#) the installer and iOS users can download from the Apple App Store using search words, Building America Solutions.

Tech Training Webinar Series

DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes include critical systems that ensure energy efficiency, comfort, quality, health and long-term durability. Each webinar in this series features an expert who will go into detail on how to get these systems right. Information on upcoming sessions is available on the [events](#) page.

Don't miss [Building Energy Optimization Tool \(BEopt\) Training](#) on Thursday, May 15, 2014. Scott Horowitz and Craig Christenson with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will introduce you to BEopt, a free software tool developed under the Building America program that helps design and sell cost-effective homes. This powerful but easy-to-use tool improves home designs by finding the best efficiency measures for your climate and budget.

On May 21, 2014 from 3:00 – 4:00 PM EDT, [Building America experts will present High Performance Enclosure Strategies: Part 1. Existing Homes](#). Tom Schirber, NorthernSTAR Building America Partnership, will discuss strategies for retrofitting exterior foundation insulation without an excavator. Steve Schirber, also with NorthernSTAR, will describe "Project Overcoat: A Robust Energy Upgrade for 1 1/2-Story Homes." And, Anastasia Herk, IBACOS, will present strategies for exterior insulation without removing old cladding.

Zero Energy Ready Homes have advanced insulation and draft sealing that reduce energy consumption and enable the design and installation of an engineered comfort system that is significantly smaller than those installed in houses just 10 years ago. In this webinar on [Low Load HVAC](#), on May 27, 2014 from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM EDT, Duncan Prael, IBACOS, will discuss key issues associated with designing these systems, including the appropriate load

layout strategies, selection of supply and return air locations, and proper register selection for air mixing in rooms.

Nothing like the real thing

Sam Rashkin and other talented trainers continue to tour the country delivering the Zero Energy Ready Home training. The training highlights the business case for building high performance homes as well as the technical details to construct these high-value homes. Here are some upcoming training locations:

[May 19, 2014, 10:00 AM to 3:00PM CDT in Madison, WI](#)

[May 21, 2014, 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM EDT in Frederick, MD](#)

[May 27, 2014, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM EDT in East Greenwich, RI](#)

[June 4, 2014, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM CDT in Euless, TX](#)

You deserve credit

Don't forget to [send](#) in your DOE Zero Energy Ready Home verification form from your RESNET-accredited software to get credit for your hard work on your profile in the [partner locator](#).

Please excuse our mess

We've made the transition from DOE Challenge Home to [DOE Zero Energy Ready Home](#), but we still have a lot of house cleaning to get all of our documents updated. Please have patience with us and [let us know](#) if you have any questions.

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [subscriber preferences page](#). You will need your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, contact support@govdelivery.com.

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