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Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

DOE Zero Energy Ready Home

August 2014

A note from Sam Rashkin: It's Summertime and the Recognition is Easy...

How would you feel if you were having a complicated medical procedure and knew your doctor was in the top 1 percent of his or her field? Incredibly relieved and confident might describe your emotions. In a similar fashion, purchasing a new home is a very stressful experience because it is so overwhelming and costly. That's why building DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes™ is a really big deal. It puts builders in the top 1% of their industry by demonstrating they are able to meet extraordinary guidelines for performance set by a trusted authority, the U.S. Department of Energy. This additional assurance is a significant advantage in an industry where research shows that 1 out of 3 buyers don't trust the builder. So it's summer-time, and yes, the recognition is easy...but you need to make sure your HERS raters [report your certified Zero Energy Ready Homes to DOE](#). If they aren't reported, we don't know about it and can't recognize the accomplishments on our web site. If we can't recognize the accomplishments, the tens of thousands of visitors to the Zero Energy Ready Home web site each month don't know about it. So be good to your business. Join this exclusive club of leading builders by getting your homes certified as Zero Energy Ready Homes and make sure they are reported. Now go out and enjoy the warm weather!

One Label...Many Badges of Honor

DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes are distinguished by a single DOE label, but behind this label are many badges of honor our partners can leverage to their benefit. A great example is the comprehensive, "A to Z" indoor air quality (IAQ) package found in DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes. Each qualifying home now includes the EPA's Indoor airPLUS (IAP) certification to deliver this level of IAQ. This update took effect with the most recent revision to the U.S. Department of Energy Zero Energy Ready Home National Program Requirements (Rev. 04) and provides builders with unparalleled value messages that resonate with consumers. During this revision DOE/EPA addressed other feedback from builders including the garage ventilation provision, which now includes alternative compliance paths. So instead of saying "trust me" - our builders can point to the Indoor airPLUS certification to demonstrate their home's thoughtful, systems-approach to a healthful indoor environment. The "IAP" label on these homes means a 3rd-party certified home which delivers a more comfortable living environment, reduced pollutants, and improved combustion safety. By building to the DOE Zero Energy Ready specifications, ***you've earned the ability to promote your homes using these labels!***

For more information on the EPA Indoor airPLUS program, including becoming a partner and marketing materials, please visit http://www.epa.gov/indoorairplus/join_now.html.

ZERH Checklist now on Building America Solution Center

The [Building America Solution Center](#) (BASC) provides world-class expert guidance right at your fingertips! The web-based tool provides building professionals with information and resources on hundreds of high-performance design and construction topics. Types of resources available include; contracting documents and specifications, installation guidelines, good/bad photograph examples, training videos, case studies and much more. The tool is powered by the collaborative effort of building professionals and organizations to deliver real-world expert advice.

We are pleased to announce that the [ZERH Checklist Manager](#) is now up and running through the BASC. The Checklist Manager provides links to technical guides that align with each measure included in the checklists for DOE's Zero Energy Ready Home. The numbers and titles included in the Checklist Manager follow the same order and have the same names as those in the [Zero Energy Ready National Program Requirements](#) to make things simple and straightforward for you the builder! The link to the ZERH checklist in the BASC is highly visible on the left hand menu of the page. Make sure to use this incredibly helpful resource to guide you through your next ZERH project!

Applications are in, but who will win?

DOE's Housing Innovation Awards recognize the very best in innovation on the path to zero energy ready homes. Join us for the 2014 Housing Innovation Awards ceremony on September 23, 2014, at **EEBA's Excellence in Building Conference** in St. Louis, MO, and discover the nation's leading builders, contractors and top innovations. Winners will be announced from DOE's Zero Energy Ready Home, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®, and Building America Top Innovations programs.

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.

Thursday, August 14, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST: Jamie Lyons, Newport Partners LLC presents: *Zero Energy Ready Home Orientation: Better Business for Builders*

The housing industry is at a crossroad.... put your ear to the track and hear what's coming. It's a market where Zero Energy Ready Homes give builders an effective business strategy and provide consumers with outstanding value. It's a market where Zero Energy Ready Home builders out-compete existing homes and code-minimum homes. And it's a market where a builder's increasing risk is actively managed with Zero Energy Ready Home systems. This market is closer than you think – with many DOE Zero Energy Ready Home builders leveraging these benefits today.

In this updated orientation webinar, we'll walk through the business, messaging, technical, and administrative aspects of the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home program. If you're already involved as a partner, you'll learn of

key changes to the program over the last year. If you're new to the idea of "zero ready" homes, this orientation will demonstrate how builders can leverage this U.S. Department of Energy label to succeed in the marketplace.

[Register for this event here!](#)

Thursday, August 21st, 1PM EST: Nick Hurst, ICF presents, "*Indoor airPLUS (IAP) and Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)*"

The Indoor airPLUS qualification, a prerequisite for Zero Energy Ready Homes, offers an important platform to improve the indoor air quality (IAQ) in high-performance homes. A critical aspect of improving both energy efficiency and IAQ is the proper design and installation of HVAC systems and their filtration components. Join this webinar to learn how Indoor airPLUS adds valuable features to Zero Energy Ready Homes that take into account source control, ventilation, and enhanced filtration, providing additional health protections for the home's occupants.

[Register for this event here!](#)

Get the Credit you Deserve!

There may be homebuyers looking for your zero energy ready homes and they can't find you. 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!

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