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Table of Contents

List of Tables .................................................. ii

1 Background ................................................... 1

2 Terminology Strategy ......................................... 2

List of Tables

Table 1. High-Performance Thermal Enclosure .................. 4
Table 2. High-Performance HVAC System ......................... 6
Table 3. Efficient Components .................................... 9
Table 4. Indoor Environment System ............................... 11
Table 5. Water Management ...................................... 13
Table 6. Disaster Resistance ....................................... 14
Table 7. Water Efficiency ......................................... 15
Table 8. Passive Solar Home ...................................... 16
Table 9. Solar Ready Home ........................................ 16
Table 10. Whole-House Solutions ................................. 16
Table 11. Home Commissioning (HC) ............................ 17
1 Background

Housing industry leaders today are successfully building and selling high-performance new and existing homes. This includes DOE Zero Energy Ready Home (formerly DOE Challenge Home), ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, numerous green building programs, and performance-focused remodeling projects through Home Performance with ENERGY STAR. However, many stakeholders are frustrated that the transaction process fails to recognize the value associated with lower cost of ownership, greater comfort, improved health, ensured combustion safety, and more durability. While there are a myriad of activities educating key transaction players, Building America and DOE Zero Energy Ready Home believe that we need to more effectively communicate the value of high-performance homes. This begins by using terminology for high-performance measures that consistently convey the improved consumer experience, rather than the engineering function. This is an important and powerful first step which is fully under our control, particularly if we facilitate a collective impact process engaging all stakeholders to develop and embrace this new language of ‘value’.

The goal of this Building Science Translator is to begin this process by providing a new glossary of ‘Power Words’ that can be used across the industry to consistently reinforce the value of high-performance homes. This includes applying this new language consistently to all consumer-facing materials used by government programs and industry alike.
2 Terminology Strategy

Glossary Goals:
- **Consistency of Language** – terminology is used consistently throughout glossary
- **Effectiveness of Language** – terminology addresses consumer experience vs. technical function
- **Inclusiveness of Language** – terminology addresses all critical high-performance home measures

**High-Performance Definition:**
The combination of *Energy Efficiency* above code, standard, or business-as-usual, ensured *Quality Installation*, and product *Performance* that meets or exceeds consumer expectations:

\[
\text{High-Performance} = \text{Energy Efficiency} + \text{Quality Installation} + \text{Performance}
\]

**Promote consistent terminology for quality in related industries (e.g., coordinate with RESNET, BPI, ACCA, etc.):**

**Energy Efficiency:**
- High-Efficiency = minimum 15% above existing code, standard, or business-as-usual
- Ultra-Efficient = minimum 50% above existing code, standard, or business as usual
- If not calibrated, just use ‘Energy Saving _____’ (e.g., if talking about SIP technology in general, just use ‘Energy Saving SIP Construction’).

**Examples:**
- ‘High-Efficiency’ Insulation = minimum 2012 IECC for most of U.S which is ~15% more efficient than 2009 IECC.
- Ultra-Efficient Insulation = 50% minimum above 2009 IECC
- ‘High-Efficiency’ Window = ENERGY STAR Window minimum which is ~15% above standard window or ~R-3
- Ultra-Efficient Window = R-5 Window or better
- High-Efficient Appliance = ENERGY STAR Qualified Appliance where labeled or equivalent
- Ultra-Efficient Appliance = ENERGY STAR Most Efficient where labeled or equivalent

**Quality Installation:**
Installation practices that meet or exceed manufacturer specifications and industry standards

Quality Installation Terminology = Professionally installed
**HVAC Systems and Components:**

- HVAC System = Comfort System
- HVAC Equipment = Comfort Equipment
- HVAC Ducts = Comfort Delivery System [analogy: lungs of home]
- HVAC terminals = Comfort Outlets
- HVAC pressure balancing = Comfort Balancing
- HVAC transfer grill or jump duct = Comfort Vent
- HVAC thermostat = Comfort Control

**Zero Energy Ready Home Definition:**

A high-performance home so energy efficient, all or most annual energy consumption can be offset with renewable energy.

**Alternate Options:**

Terminology will typically have alternate options that address different performance attributes. This will allow the same measure to be listed multiple times in marketing material for optimum linkage to all improved consumer experiences.

**Alternate Options Example: High Performance Window System**

- Comfort – Enhanced Comfort Window System
- Efficiency – High Efficiency (e.g., R-3) or Ultra-Efficient (e.g., R-5) Window System
- Healthful – Quiet Window System
- Advanced Technology – Advanced Window System Technology
- Quality – Professionally Installed Window System
- Durability – Enhanced Durability Window System
Table 1. High-Performance Thermal Enclosure

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<td>High-Efficiency</td>
<td>Advanced Enclosure</td>
<td>Professionally-Installed Thermal Enclosure</td>
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<td>High-Performance Window System</td>
<td>High-Performance Window System</td>
<td>Quiet Window System</td>
<td>High-Efficiency or Ultra-Efficient Window System</td>
<td>Advanced Window System Technology</td>
<td>Professionally-Installed Window System</td>
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<td>High-Efficiency Window</td>
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<td>Advanced Window Installation</td>
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<td>New Building Science Terminology</td>
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Table 3. Efficient Components
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Lives Better: Engineered Comfort, Healthful Environment
Works Better: Ultra-Efficient, Advanced Technology
Lasts Better: Quality Built, Enhanced Durability
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Table 4. Indoor Environment System

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<td>Kitchen Exhaust Fan</td>
<td>Kitchen Odor and Moisture Control Fan</td>
<td>Kitchen Odor and Moisture Control Fan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bathroom Exhaust Fan</td>
<td>Bathroom Odor and Moisture Control Fan</td>
<td>Bathroom Odor and Moisture Control Fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garage Ventilation Fan</td>
<td>Garage Exhaust Fan</td>
<td>Garage Exhaust Fan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Filtration</td>
<td>High-Capture Filtration Technology</td>
<td>High-Capture Filtration Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-MERV Filter</td>
<td>High Capture Filter</td>
<td>High Capture Filter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper Installation of Filter</td>
<td>Professionally-Installed Filtration</td>
<td>Professionally-Installed Filtration</td>
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### Table 5. Water Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Management</td>
<td>Whole-House Water Protection System</td>
<td>Moisture Managed Construction</td>
<td>Dry-by-Design Construction</td>
<td>Foundation Water Barrier System</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Water Protection</td>
<td>Whole-House Water Protection System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Managed Foundation</td>
<td>Foundation Water Barrier System</td>
<td>Dry-by-Design Foundation</td>
<td>Dry-by-Design Foundation</td>
<td>Foundation Water Barrier System</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Foundation Water Barrier</td>
<td>Foundation Water Barrier System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Wall Water/Damp-Proofing</td>
<td>Foundation Wall Water Barrier</td>
<td>Dry-by-Design Foundation Wall</td>
<td>Dry-by-Design Foundation Wall</td>
<td>Foundation Wall Water Barrier Technology</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Foundation Water Barrier</td>
<td>Foundation Wall Water Barrier System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Capillary Break over Aggregate</td>
<td>Foundation Floor Water Barrier</td>
<td>Dry-by-Design Foundation Floor</td>
<td>Dry-by-Design Foundation Floor</td>
<td>Foundation Floor Water Barrier Technology</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Slab Water Protection</td>
<td>Slab Water Barrier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drainage Tile Wrapped in Fabric Filter</td>
<td>Anti-Clog Foundation Drain</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Foundation Drainage</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Foundation Drainage</td>
<td>Anti-Clog Foundation Drain Technology</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Foundation Drainage</td>
<td>Anti-Clog Foundation Drain</td>
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<td>Water Managed Walls</td>
<td>Wall Moisture Control System</td>
<td>Dry-by-Design Walls</td>
<td>Dry-by-Design Walls</td>
<td>Moisture Managed Wall Technology</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Wall Water Protection</td>
<td>Wall Moisture Control System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous/Sealed Weather Resistant Barrier</td>
<td>Wall Water Barrier</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Wall Construction</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Wall Construction</td>
<td>Wall Water Barrier Technology</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Wall Water Barrier</td>
<td>Wall Water Barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pan Flashing (doors/windows)</td>
<td>Window/Door Water Barrier</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Windows and Doors</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Windows and Doors</td>
<td>Window/Door Water Barrier Technology</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Window/Door Water Barrier</td>
<td>Window/Door Water Barrier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Managed Roof Assembly</td>
<td>Roof Water Barrier System</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Roof</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Roof</td>
<td>Roof Water Barrier Technology</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Roof Water Barrier</td>
<td>Roof Water Barrier System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kick-Out Flashing, Step Flashing</td>
<td>Roof-Wall Water Deflector</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Roof-Wall Intersection</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Roof-Wall Intersection</td>
<td>Roof-Wall Intersection Water Protection Technology</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Roof/Wall Water Deflector</td>
<td>Roof-Wall Water Deflector</td>
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<td>Heavy Membrane Valley/Eave</td>
<td>Roof Water Barrier</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Roof Water Barrier</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Roof Water Barrier</td>
<td>Roof Water Barrier Technology</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Roof Water Barrier</td>
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<td>Water Managed Building Materials</td>
<td>Interior Moisture Control Materials</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Materials</td>
<td>Dry-By-Design Materials</td>
<td>Interior Moisture Control Technology</td>
<td>Professionally Installed Interior Water Protection</td>
<td>Interior Moisture Control Materials</td>
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Table 6. Disaster Resistance

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Science Measure</th>
<th>New Building Science Terminology</th>
<th>Alternate Terms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lives Better</td>
<td>Works Better</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Disaster Resistance</td>
<td>Disaster Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Disaster Protection System</td>
<td>Disaster Protection System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severe Weather Resistant Home</td>
<td>Severe Weather Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Severe Weather Protection System</td>
<td>Severe Weather Protection System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind Resistant Home</td>
<td>Wind Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Wind Protection System</td>
<td>Wind Protection System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hurricane Resistant Home</td>
<td>Hurricane Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Hurricane Protection System</td>
<td>Hurricane Protection System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tornado/Hail Resistant Home</td>
<td>Tornado/Hail Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Tornado/Hail Protection System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severe Winter Storm Resist. Home</td>
<td>Winter Storm Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Winter Storm Protection System</td>
<td>Winter Storm Protection System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Event Resistant Home</td>
<td>Natural Event Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Natural Event Protection System</td>
<td>Natural Event Protection System</td>
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<td>Flood Resistant Home</td>
<td>Flood Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Flood Protection System</td>
<td>Flood Protection System</td>
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<td>Wildfire Resistant Home</td>
<td>Wildfire Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Wildfire Protection System</td>
<td>Wildfire Protection System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earthquake Resistant Home</td>
<td>Earthquake Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Earthquake Protection System</td>
<td>Earthquake Protection System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pest Resistant Home</td>
<td>Pest Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Pest Protection System</td>
<td>Pest Protection System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Termite Resistant Home</td>
<td>Termite Resistant Home</td>
<td>Advanced Termite Protection System</td>
<td>Termite Protection System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disaster Resilience</td>
<td>Disaster Resilient Home</td>
<td>Advanced Disaster Resilience Technology</td>
<td>Disaster Resilience System</td>
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### Table 7. Water Efficiency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Science Measure</th>
<th>New Building Science Terminology</th>
<th>Alternate Terms</th>
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<td>Lives Better</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Efficiency</td>
<td>Water Saving System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Efficient Indoor</td>
<td>Water Saving Home</td>
<td>Water Saving Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Flow Fixtures</td>
<td>Water Saving Fixtures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Efficient Appliances</td>
<td>Water Saving Appliances</td>
<td>Water Saving Appliances</td>
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<tr>
<td>Efficient Hot Water Distribution</td>
<td>On-Demand Hot Water</td>
<td>Water and Energy Saving Hot Water Distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Plumbing</td>
<td>On-Demand Hot Water Plumbing</td>
<td>On-Demand Hot Water Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manifold Plumbing</td>
<td>On-Demand Hot Water Plumbing</td>
<td>On-Demand Hot Water Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demand Pumping System</td>
<td>On-Demand Hot Water Pump</td>
<td>On-Demand Hot Water Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Efficient Outdoor Landscaping</td>
<td>Water Saving Landscaping</td>
<td>Water Saving Landscaping Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Efficient Landscape Design</td>
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<td>Efficient Landscape Irrigation</td>
<td>Water Saving Irrigation</td>
<td>Water Saving Irrigation Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Neutral Home (reclaims as much as it uses for irrigation)</td>
<td>Zero-Water Irrigation</td>
<td>Zero-Water Irrigation Technology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The table lists terms for various building science measures, focusing on water efficiency. Each measure is paired with a new term, and each new term is listed with its alternate terms for lives, works, and lasts better.*
Table 8. Passive Solar Home; Table 9. Solar Ready Home; Table 10. Whole-House Solutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Science Measure</th>
<th>New Building Science Terminology</th>
<th>Alternate Terms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lives Better</td>
<td>Works Better</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Engineered Comfort</td>
<td>Healthful Environment</td>
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<td>Proper Solar Orientation</td>
<td>Natural Comfort Orientation</td>
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<td>Daylighting</td>
<td>Natural Daylight Home</td>
<td>Natural Daylight Home</td>
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<td>Thermal Mass</td>
<td>Natural Comfort Balancing System</td>
<td>Natural Comfort Balancing System</td>
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<td>Fresh Air Cooling</td>
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<td>Cool Roof</td>
<td>Cool Roofing</td>
<td>Energy Saving Cool Roofing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whole-House Solutions</td>
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<td>High-Performance Home</td>
<td>High-Performance Home</td>
<td>Enhanced Comfort Home</td>
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<td>Building Science Measure</td>
<td>New Building Science Terminology</td>
<td>Alternate Terms</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lives Better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Engineered Comfort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Commissioning (HC)</td>
<td>Home Performance Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy Audit (e.g., Home Energy Score)</td>
<td>Home Performance Check-up</td>
<td>Advanced Home Performance Diagnostics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Diagnostics</td>
<td>Home Performance Testing</td>
<td>Advanced Home Performance Diagnostics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blower Door Test</td>
<td>Draft Control Test</td>
<td>Advanced Draft Detection Diagnostics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duct Leakage Test</td>
<td>Comfort Delivery Test</td>
<td>Advanced Comfort Delivery Diagnostics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) Test</td>
<td>Combustion Safe Equipment Test</td>
<td>Advanced Combustion Safety Diagnostics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrared Camera Inspections</td>
<td>Home Thermal Imaging Scan</td>
<td>Advanced Thermal Imaging Diagnostics</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 11. Home Commissioning (HC)