

News From the Field

NEW: Weekly Peer Exchange Calls, Open to All, With Easy and Direct Registration Links

The Better Buildings Residential Network's schedule for Peer Exchange Calls will change from two calls each second and fourth Thursdays of the month to one call per week four times a month. Four calls will still take place each month, but now it will be easier to take part in all of the calls.

Additionally, Peer Exchange Calls will be open to all interested participants, rather than just Better Buildings Residential Network members as in the past.

Registration just became easier with direct links. See the schedule of calls in the [right sidebar below](#) to register directly.

Uncle Sam Wants You—If You're Working on Energy Efficiency and Health

If your organization is working on initiatives that connect energy efficiency and health, the Better

Buildings Residential Network wants to hear from you. We are developing a case study and materials concerning how programs are addressing the relationship between energy efficiency and health, and would like to feature members' initiatives, similar to those featured in the [Partnerships Case Study](#).

[Click Here to be Included in the New Publication](#)

The Residential Network will also feature member initiatives in social media, publications, and the website.

Be recognized for your work by emailing [Better Buildings Residential Network Support](#).

Michigan Saves Reaches \$50 Million Milestone

Michigan families and businesses are making smart investments in energy

September 2015

In This Issue

- [NEW Weekly, Open, Easy-to-Register Peer Exchange Calls](#)
- [Uncle Sam Wants You: Energy Efficiency and Health](#)
- [Michigan Saves Reaches \\$50 Million Milestone](#)
- [Clean Power Plan and Energy Efficiency](#)
- [Unlock Residential Energy Efficiency Best Practices](#)
- [Better Buildings Partners Leave Long-Term Legacy](#)
- [New Members Strengthen the Network](#)
- [The Latest Energy Efficiency Blogs and Reports](#)

Peer Exchange Calls

Take part in these topical calls open to all that are more discussion than webinar and serve as a forum to ask questions and bounce ideas off peers. Register directly below:

October 8

On-Bill Financing: Reducing Cost Barriers to Energy Efficiency Improvements (201)

1:00–2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

October 15

You Are My Sunshine: Integrating Residential Solar and Energy Efficiency (301)

efficiency, from the western tip of the Upper Peninsula to the state's eastern coast of Lake Erie. In June, [Michigan Saves](#) celebrated a significant milestone: \$50 million in energy investments. The home energy upgrade program, which started in 2009 with grant funding from the Michigan Public Service Commission, makes affordable financing available through partnerships with private-sector lenders. Approximately 5,000 residential and 300 business customers have been served in the past five years.



Michigan Saves staff celebrate their \$50 million energy investment milestone. Photo: Trumphie Photography

As a former [Better Buildings Neighborhood Program partner](#) and a founding Residential Network member, Michigan Saves' vision is to break down barriers that prevent homeowners and business owners from undertaking energy efficiency upgrades. Michigan Saves Executive Director Mary Templeton credited the recent milestone to the tireless efforts of local contractors and lenders providing capital to thousands of Michiganders wanting to take control of their energy costs.

"At the end of the day, it's those Michiganders—those families and business owners—who are making the choice to improve the health, safety, efficiency and comfort of their buildings. And we should be grateful to them. Their individual actions benefit everyone in this state because we're collectively reducing waste and improving our sustainability," Templeton said.

[Learn more](#) about Michigan Saves' investment milestone.

The Clean Power Plan and Energy Efficiency

Less than one month following President Obama's release of the final Clean Power Plan in August 2015, Janet McCabe of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Air and Radiation [highlighted](#) the plan's important impact on the future of energy efficiency programs.

"Energy efficiency programs make perfect sense for states; they have low costs and large potential. Our analysis projects that, in every state, demand-side energy efficiency programs will be a significant component of state compliance plans under the Clean Power Plan," McCabe wrote. "Because energy efficiency is not assumed as part of each state's goal, it can serve as kind of a 'bonus' strategy for compliance."

1:00–2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

October 22

Programs and Contractors— Top Tips for Successful Relationships (101)

1:00–2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

October 29

Ghosts in the Attic—Horror Stories From the Field (201)

1:00–2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

Find the Latest Peer Exchange Call Summaries

Readers can now review summaries from the following calls:

- August 20, 2015:
[Staged Upgrades: Homeowner-Focused Strategies for Encouraging Energy Upgrades Over Time \(201\)](#)
- August 13, 2015:
[Streamlining Assessments: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly \(301\)](#)
- August 13, 2015:
[Tailored Marketing for Underrepresented Population Segments \(201\)](#)
- July 23, 2015:
[Think Again! A Fresh Look at Home Performance Business Models and Service Offerings \(301\)](#)
- July 23, 2015:
[Hit The Road: Lessons From Applying a National Campaign to a Local Context \(201\)](#)
- July 21, 2015:
[Opportunities for Building America Research to Address Energy Upgrade Technical Challenges: HVAC, Envelope, and](#)

McCabe also noted that energy savings achieved by these programs will not only help cut emissions, but they will also save consumers money on their electric bills. EPA projects that the Clean Power Plan will spur a 7% reduction in electricity demand, reducing electricity bills by \$7 per month on average in 2030.

Read EPA's [blog post](#) and [fact sheet](#) to learn more.

As states consider elements of their compliance plans, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) offers a number of technical assistance resources to help that are accessible through its [Technical Assistance Web Portal](#).

Residential Energy Efficiency Solutions

Latest Features Unlock Residential Energy Efficiency Best Practices

Additional features have been added to the [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#), a repository for key energy efficiency lessons, resources, and knowledge collected from a \$500 million grant program and years of program experience, to highlight helpful topics and resources:



- **Top Lessons Learned:** New to the Residential Program Solution Center are summaries of the top lessons learned from programs across the United States related to [program design](#), [marketing and outreach](#), and [financing](#). Check out these resources and more, and get started exploring the Solution Center.
- **Updated Homepage:** The Residential Program Solution Center [homepage](#) now features a rotating carousel connecting new and returning users to helpful resources. This improvement is in addition to Proven Practices posts, shortcuts to frequently asked questions, and the six program components typically overseen by a program administrator.
- **Proven Practices and Widget:** Each month, the Residential Program Solution Center highlights a new [Proven Practice](#). Tips, program examples, videos, and links to resources help residential energy efficiency program administrators better plan, operate, and evaluate residential energy efficiency programs. You can [add the widget](#) to your organization's website to share

[Indoor Air Quality \(IAQ\)](#)

- July 9, 2015: [Social Media and Messages That Matter: Top Tips and Tools](#)
- July 9, 2015: [The Dog Days of Summer: Capitalizing on the Pet Market](#)
- June 25, 2015: [Strengthening the Front Lines: Sales Training and Continuing Education for Contractors](#)
- June 25, 2015: [Creative Financing Approaches for Residential Energy Efficiency Programs](#)

Related Events

[2015 ACI Mid-Atlantic Regional Home Performance Conference](#)
October 20–21, 2015
Cherry Hill, NJ

[2015 Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance \(SEEA\) and Association of Energy Services Professionals \(AESP\) Southeast Conference](#)
October 28–30, 2015
Atlanta, GA

Have an event you want featured? Email the details to [Better Buildings Residential Network Support](#).

Proven Practices Spotlight



Q. How can we ensure the quality of energy efficiency upgrades that affiliated contractors conduct in

these proven practices with program administrators.

Visit the [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#) to explore these new features and get recognized by [submitting resources](#) to be featured in the Web portal.

Stories From the Neighborhood

Better Buildings Neighborhood Program Partners Leave Long-Term Legacy

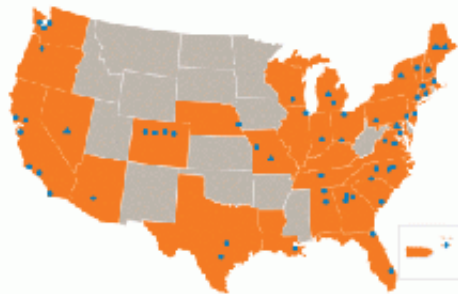
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released [independent evaluation reports](#) on direct impacts, lessons learned, and market effects of the [Better Buildings Neighborhood Program](#), a \$500 million energy efficiency grant program. In 2010, DOE competitively selected more than 40 state and local governments to develop sustainable energy efficiency programs. By 2014, these programs completed energy efficiency upgrades of more than 119,000 homes and buildings. This new, independent evaluation indicates that Better Buildings Neighborhood Program partners:

- Spurred \$1.3 billion in economic activity
- Created more than 10,000 full-time equivalent jobs
- Generated more than \$120 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues
- Will save more than 56 million British thermal units (BTUs) in energy over the lifetime of the efficiency measures adopted

In first-of-its-kind research, statistical analysis identified four primary factors associated with greater program success, based on achievements during the 2010–2013 evaluation period. The findings provide the energy efficiency community with greater confidence in its understanding of programmatic elements:

- Offering multiple types of energy assessments
- Installing low-cost measures during assessments
- Developing large pools of eligible contractors
- Providing contractor training

Read the final Better Buildings Neighborhood Program [evaluation reports](#) and review the related webcast [presentation](#) and [recording](#) to learn more.



See Better Buildings Neighborhood Program successes near you.

customers' homes to avoid call-backs?

A. Having a clear process for quality assurance and quality control is critical to ensuring a consistent level of quality work. Successful programs have used a tiered approach, in which the program inspects the first several upgrades completed by a new contractor followed by a specified percentage of subsequent projects.

Visit the [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#) to learn about Proven Practices, such as ensuring quality assurance among contractors.

Quotable

"When you buy [an older home], you can make a big impact."

– Production Manager Cador Pricejones of [Byggmeister, Inc.](#), a Residential Network member, on reducing the energy consumption of a 1930s home in Massachusetts by more than 50%

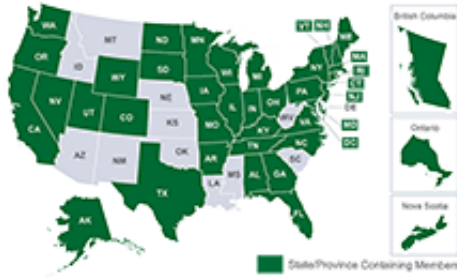
Send Us Your Accomplishments

Did your organization achieve an accomplishment worthy of being featured? We want to hear about it to ensure the efforts of Residential Network members are highlighted. [Send us](#) the details so that we can share your success in future issues of the *Better Buildings Network View*, as well as on social media.

Meet the Members

The Network Grows With a Variety of New Members

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



- [National Grid \(Rhode Island\)](#) is an international electricity and gas utility providing Rhode Island customers' reliable and efficient energy through its subsidiary, the Narragansett Electric Company, while promoting affordable energy solutions.
- [State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) supports statewide economic development and job creation through energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling, and alternative transportation programs.
- [Red River Valley Community Action](#) is a nonprofit organization in North Dakota focused on helping low-income residents obtain housing and assisting current homeowners to achieve residential energy efficiency with free home improvements and installation.
- [Alaska Housing Finance Corporation](#) provides Alaskans access to quality and affordable housing while concentrating on energy efficiency and weatherization programs; public and senior housing programs; and professional development opportunities.
- [Metropolitan Energy Center](#) helps create resource efficiency, environmental health, and economic vitality in the Kansas City, Missouri region through training, rebates, and sustainability.

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

Resource Corner

Boost Your Knowledge With New Energy Efficiency Blogs and Reports

Catch up on the latest residential energy efficiency news and stories with these new resources:

- [“Deploying Residential Energy Efficiency: Barriers and Potential”](#) examines the feasibility of establishing residential energy

efficiency in both single-family and multi-family homes, suggesting steps to ensure implementation across a variety of economic groups (*Home Energy* magazine blog, September 2015).

- [Local Energy Efficiency Policy Calculator \(LEEP-C\), Version 2.0 Beta](#) reports on a new tool designed to help advance the adoption of energy efficiency efforts in communities by weighing various policy options based on community priorities to gauge which best fit with community goals (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy [ACEEE], August 2015).
- “[What’s Green Worth?](#)” discusses the value of green strategies and resources available to appraisers that highlight the benefits of green improvements and certifications and demonstrate best practices (DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, July 2015).

Share the View

Forward this email to colleagues or encourage them to sign up to receive each issue by sending their name, organization, and 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.

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