



RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

Network View Newsletter

News From the Field

New Toolkit Dives Into Training Techniques

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Better Buildings Residential Network has launched a [Training Toolkit](#) to help residential energy efficiency program managers identify resources and opportunities to help contractors, staff, and volunteers enhance their understanding of building science; sales and marketing; program offerings; and business development.



This toolkit is the fourth Residential Network Voluntary Member Initiative—which provides a forum for members to address shared challenges with solutions—and includes tips, resources, and examples to help your residential energy efficiency program plan technical, outreach, and professional training.

DOE would like to thank the Residential Network member volunteers who made this toolkit possible by providing feedback and review:

- Christopher Becker, [Build It Green](#)
- Nell Boyle, [City of Roanoke, Virginia](#)
- Brian Breckin, [Center for Sustainable Energy](#)
- Keith Canfield, [Clinton Climate Initiative – Home Energy Affordability Loan Program](#)
- Martin Hudi, [National Grid \(Massachusetts\)](#)
- Ted Kidd, [Energy Efficiency Specialists](#)
- Jennifer Koehn, [Mitsubishi Electric Cooling and Heating](#)
- Laura Langham, [North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association](#)
- Don MacOdrum, [Home Performance Guild of Oregon](#)
- Michelle Nochisaki, [Efficiency First California](#)
- Tony Raeker, [City of Fort Collins, Colorado](#)
- Richard Reilly, [EarthWays Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

March 2016

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REGISTER FOR
UPCOMING
PEER
EXCHANGE
CALLS »

JOIN THE
RESIDENTIAL
NETWORK »

Be Recognized

SEND YOUR
SUCCESSSES
TO DOE »

- Brandon Renaud, [Columbia Water and Light](#)
- Meghan Scholl, [Hands On Nashville](#)
- Ruchi Shah, [Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future \(SAHF\)](#)
- Marissa Spata, [Center for Sustainable Energy](#)
- Moe Srifi, [Efficiency First California](#)
- Jerry Tarantino, [HUB Energy Group](#)
- Briana Wagner, [National Housing Trust](#)
- Rick Wertheim, [United Way of Long Island](#)

Coming Soon: Reporting and Recognition

In order to recognize our members' accomplishments, the Better Buildings Residential Network will be kicking off this year's annual reporting and feedback round-up. Reporting your organization's number of upgrades and resulting benefits will help us provide a summary of the Residential Network's collective impact as well as enable learning from each other's best practices.



Keep an eye on your email for more details coming soon on how to report your program's progress and worthwhile activities.

Milwaukee Energy Efficiency Accelerates Upgrades for Homeowners

[Milwaukee Energy Efficiency \(Me²\)](#), a Residential Network member, is helping consumers upgrade their homes with affordable financing options. Me² provides financing for up to \$15,000 for energy-saving improvements such as new insulation, furnaces, boilers, and windows. Loans are combined with rebates from the [Focus on Energy program](#) to help make energy upgrades more affordable. Since 2011, 1,300 homes have been upgraded through Me², reducing the average energy use of those homes by 30% and creating local green jobs.



Milwaukee is planning to further accelerate building energy efficiency through [Sustainable Energy for All's \(SE4ALL\) Building Efficiency Accelerator](#), a partnership program that works with cities as they plan and implement policies, programs, and projects to improve building

DOE Funding Opportunities

Find information about the [Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's funding opportunity announcements](#).

March 24

Demonstration of the Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center
3:00–4:00 PM ET
[Register now](#)

Join us on a tour of the Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center's content and functionality. Learn how you can use the Solution Center to help design and implement your residential energy efficiency program.

Peer Exchange Calls —Register Directly Below

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

April 14

Training: How to Get Results - What Matters, What Doesn't (201)
1:00–2:30 PM ET
[Register now](#)

April 21

Advances in Integrating Energy Efficiency Into the Real Estate Market (301)
1:00–2:30 PM ET
[Register now](#)

April 28

Driving Change in Residential Energy Efficiency: Electric Vehicles Advanced Programs (301)

efficiency. A network of 70 businesses, governments, and non-governmental organizations provide tools, expertise, and technical capabilities to help cities implement and report on energy efficiency measures. [SE4ALL](#), a United Nations initiative, partners with governments, the private sector, and local communities to ensure universal access to modern energy services and double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

[Learn more](#) about Milwaukee's energy efficiency programs and initiatives.

Efficiency Vermont Works to Revitalize Energy Efficiency Efforts

Downtown Bennington, Vermont, is getting an [energy-efficient makeover](#) through Residential Network member [Efficiency Vermont](#)'s residential and community programs and support. As part of Vermont's [Downtown Energy Efficiency pilot program](#),



Efficiency Vermont and the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will work to make energy efficiency programs and services more visible and accessible to the community through office hours, community events, workshops, information sessions, and home energy walk-throughs.

Efficiency Vermont and DHCD will integrate sustainable energy solutions with downtown revitalization efforts for three other Vermont state-designated downtowns in 2016.

[Read more](#) about Efficiency Vermont's downtown Bennington partnership and program plans.

New Credential Helps Homes Get Health and Safety Check-Ups

This spring, Residential Network member the [Building Performance Institute \(BPI\)](#) will introduce the [Healthy Home Evaluator credential](#) to help the home performance, weatherization, and healthy housing workforce assess home-based environmental health and safety hazards and provide a prioritized list of recommendations to address those hazards.



The credential builds upon BPI's Building Analyst or Energy Auditor

1:00–2:30 PM ET

[Register now](#)

Find the Latest Peer Exchange Call Summaries

Readers can now review summaries from the following calls:

- January 21, 2016: [The Energy-Water Nexus and What It Can Do For Your Residential Program \(301\)](#)
- January 28, 2016: [Keys to Successful Quality Assurance and Quality Control Programs \(101\)](#)
- February 4, 2016: [Einstein and Energy Efficiency: Making Homes Smarter \(301\)](#)
- February 11, 2016: [He Said She Said: The Power of Messaging \(101\)](#)
- February 18, 2016: [Where Do We Go From Here? The Changing Landscape of Residential Energy Efficiency \(201\)](#)

Related Events

[2016 South-Central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource \(SPEER\) Fourth Annual Summit](#)

March 29–30
Austin, TX

[2016 ACI National Home Performance Conference and Trade Show](#)

April 4–7
Austin, TX

[Better Buildings Summit](#)

May 9–11
Washington, DC

[2016 ACEEE Energy Efficiency Finance Forum](#)

May 22–24
Newport, RI

[2016 Northeast Energy](#)

certifications to verify the competencies required to conduct in-depth healthy home environmental risk assessments. BPI will pilot the Healthy Homes Evaluator certification exam beginning April 4 at the [2016 ACI National Home Performance Conference](#) and at BPI Test Centers nationwide.

[Learn more](#) about the Healthy Homes Evaluator credential.

Oregon Organizes Plans to Combat Affordable Housing Crisis

To expand the availability of affordable, energy-efficient housing in Oregon, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is collaborating with Residential Network member the [Earth Advantage Institute](#) to improve the [Local Innovation and Fast Track \(LIFT\) Housing Program](#).



In 2015, the state and leading local governments passed a series of appropriations to address the housing problem and commit \$40 million in bonds to fund the LIFT Housing Program. The Earth Advantage Institute and USGBC are working with other allied groups to ensure the bonding focuses on principles such as green building standards for housing developers, education for residents to help promote environmental stewardship, and affordability and total value for homeowners.

[Learn more](#) about the LIFT Housing Program and the Earth Advantage Institute and USGBC's advocacy efforts.

Meet the Members

Residential Network Welcomes Its Newest Members

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

- [Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura, California](#), is a housing authority managing more than 700 public housing units that offers residential energy efficiency rebates and refinancing options to



[Efficiency Summit](#)

June 13–14
Bretton Woods, NH

[ASHRAE 2016 Annual Conference](#)

June 25–29
St. Louis, MO

[2016 ACEEE Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings](#)

August 21–26
Pacific Grove, CA

[Behavior, Energy and Climate \(BECC\) Change Conference](#)

October 20–22
Baltimore, MD

[2016 Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance \(SEEA\) and Association of Energy Services Professionals \(AESP\) Southeast Conference](#)

October 25–26
Atlanta, GA

[2016 ACEEE Intelligent Efficiency Conference](#)

December 4–6
Austin, TX

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

Proven Practices Spotlight



Satisfied Customers Can Help Spread the Word

Residential energy efficiency programs have found that encouraging word-of-mouth outreach by satisfied customers can increase demand for home energy assessments and upgrades. Many programs

residents.

- [Energy and Environmental Building Alliance](#) is a national organization that promotes sustainable and responsible residential building principles in the design, marketing, and execution of the building process. It creates unique educational resources and a platform for collaboration among organizations committed to energy efficiency.
- [Baltimore Gas and Electric](#) is a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Sponsor and gas and electric utility that offers energy assessments to residential customers, as well as rebates for energy efficiency measures taken to maximize energy and cost savings.
- [Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative \(SMECO\)](#) is a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Sponsor and an electric distribution company that increases the energy efficiency of residential homes through energy assessments.
- [Xcel Energy Minnesota](#) is an electricity and gas utility and Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Sponsor based in Minnesota that offers rebates and rewards to residential customers for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrades and solar panel installations.

Learn more from these programs and other members. Sign up to become a Residential Network member by completing a [membership form](#).

Resource Corner

Spring Ahead With New Reports and Resources

- [2020 Leadership Agenda for Existing Commercial and Multifamily Buildings](#) is a report that focuses on six energy efficiency areas for state and local governments to improve the energy efficiency of existing commercial and multifamily buildings, which include strengthening market demand and expanding public-private partnerships (DOE's State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network, February 2016).
- [Best Practices in Developing State Lead-by-Example Programs and Considerations for Clean Power Plan Compliance](#) is the second in a series of papers intended to guide state governments on Clean Power Plan compliance and shows how leading by example in state and local government programs communicates an agency's commitment to reducing energy consumption, protecting facilities, and protecting taxpayer dollars (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy [ACEEE], February 2016).
- [Energy Efficiency and the Clean Power Plan: Steps to Success](#) is the first in a series of papers intended to guide state governments on Clean Power Plan compliance and highlights

have found that homeowners are more likely to participate after hearing neighbors or peers describe their upgrade experience and how they have benefited. Programs have had success promoting upgrades by giving customers yard signs to post during and after project completion. They have also asked participants who were happy with their results to appear in advertising, provide testimonials, and share the benefits through their social networks.

Visit the [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#) to learn about proven practices, such as working with satisfied customers to spread the word to their neighbors.

Social Media Spotlight



Celebrate Women's History Month by sharing a video from [DOE's #WomenInSTEM education series](#). Check out ["Identifying an Opportunity for Change."](#) highlighting Pepco's Vice President of Business Transformation Karen Lefkowitz.

strategies to engage residential communities, utilities, and other stakeholders (ACEEE, February 2016).

- [Energy Efficiency Finance: A Market Reassessment](#) examines the current state of energy efficiency financing, highlighting segments of strength such as cars, green buildings, and energy service companies, and offering areas that are underserved, including residential low- and moderate-income households and multifamily housing (ACEEE, February 2016).
- “[Energy Innovation](#)” reviews the latest technologies in the residential energy efficiency sector, including innovations in space heating and cooling, methods for plugging a leaky home, and investments in an efficiency thermal shell (*Home Energy* magazine blog, January 2016).
- “[Energy Efficiency Savings Opportunities and Benefits](#)” lists DOE resources that show economic energy efficiency potential nationally and state-by-state (DOE EERE State and Local Solution Center).

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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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