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Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

DOE Zero Energy Ready Home

Zero Energy Ready Home Newsletter:

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What Do These Builders Know That You Don't?

Sam Rashkin

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has been providing half-day seminars on Zero Energy Ready Homes (ZERHs) all across the country. My favorite part of these seminars is what we call the 'Voice of the Builder.' Right after we introduce ZERH as a powerful business solution, we bring on a few local builders who construct ZERHs to tell their story. It's one thing to listen to outside experts; it's a completely different experience listening to local competitors who are among a select group of leading builders delivering a superior homeowner experience. Their journey to zero and lessons learned along the way are incredibly important.

And now DOE is inviting special groups of ZERH builders to share their story in a series of webinars about what we believe is the future of housing. This includes answers to the following questions:

- What business factors drove them to lead where others wait and watch?
- What technical solutions allowed them to cost-effectively meet rigorous guidelines for outstanding home performance?
- What marketing messages, tools, and strategies enable them to effectively engage homebuyers?
- What mistakes have they made that you need to avoid?
- What plans for the future do they have based on all that they have learned?

These webinars will feature builder panels targeted to three specific climate regions: cold climate, Mountain; cold climate, Midwest; and hot-dry climate. Something really special is happening in U.S. housing—dare I say—a movement. Please come join us and learn directly from a special breed of home builders leading the way.

Upcoming Webinars

ZERH Leading Building Webinar Series: Cold Climate

June 19th, 1:00-2:00 p.m. EST

There is a select group of leading builders across the country who are delivering a superior homeowner experience with Zero Energy Ready Homes. What business factors drove them to lead where others wait and watch? What technical solutions allowed them to cost-effectively achieve rigorous guidelines for outstanding home performance? What marketing messages, tools, and strategies enable them to effectively engage homebuyers? What mistakes have they made that you need to avoid? What plans for the future do they have based on all that they have learned?

Don't miss the answer to these and other questions about the future of housing as DOE invites some of its best builder partners and Housing Innovation Award winners from the ZERH program to share their stories with you. Our first webinar will focus on a sampling of cold-climate builders from the Midwest. The builders in this session include BrightLeaf Homes from Chicago, Illinois; Charis Homes from Summit County, Ohio; and Charles Thomas Homes from Elkhorn, Nebraska.

Join us on June 19th for the first webinar in this series!

[Register Here](#)

ZERH Webinar: How States Can Leverage Zero Energy Ready Homes

June 13, 2017, 1:00–2:00 p.m. EST

State housing agencies often recognize efficiency and green certifications within Low-Income Housing Tax Credit programs and other affordable housing initiatives. DOE's ZERH program offers a simple and highly effective resource for states to leverage in these programs. DOE's ZERH program delivers significant energy savings and a lower total cost of ownership, along with a program design that is cost-effective and straightforward for developers and builders. In this session, we'll describe the ZERH technical provisions that deliver cost-effective savings, along with a comparison of ZERH to other efficiency and green programs. We'll also walk through the simple process of certifying projects and highlight states that already reference DOE's ZERH program within their Qualified Allocation Plan programs.

[Register Here](#)

Housing Innovation Awards

We are two weeks out from the deadline for the 2017 Housing Innovation Awards (HIA)! Please make sure you have your applications submitted by June 15, 2017, in order to be eligible for this year's awards. We want you to put your best foot forward when submitting your homes, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns about the application process.

A copy of our HIA Application Webinar is available on the [Housing Innovation Awards web page](#). Remember, your applications are used to populate the Tour of Zero, so keep that in mind while you are filling out your application! If you have any questions related to the Housing Innovation Awards or the application process, the Zero Energy Ready Home team is happy to answer them. You can contact us at 301-889-0017 or via email at zero@newportpartnersllc.com.

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