



# RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

## Network View Newsletter

### News from the Field

#### And the Winner Is...

On December 18, 2017, [Better Buildings Residential Network](#) member the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was named the winner of the [Georgetown University Energy Prize](#). This was the culmination of a two-year, nationwide competition that brought together 50 communities to rethink the way America's small- to medium-sized towns, cities, and counties use energy. In the final round of the competition, communities were evaluated on their energy-saving approach, performance, and prospects for nationwide replicability and scalability.



*Photo: Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau*

"Fargo built an extraordinary program that brought together the community through partnerships, leveraged local assets, and utilized a strong benchmarking system," said Energy Prize Executive Director Uwe Brandes. "Fargo's effort, which brought together the city, North Dakota State University, and two local energy utilities, provides innovative, replicable, and scalable approaches to energy efficiency that could be deployed in communities nationwide."

[Learn more](#) about Fargo's accomplishments and the other Residential Network members who were top 10 finalists.

#### Share Top Five Tips to Stay Warm This Winter

Better Buildings Residential Network members can help customers achieve their energy reduction resolutions and encourage cold weather upgrades by sharing these helpful tips to stay warm this winter.

1. **Spruce up the fireplace** by switching from a wood-burning fireplace to a more efficient wood stove or gas-burning fireplace insert.
2. **Reverse the ceiling fan** to push warm air



*Photo: National Renewable Energy Laboratory*

January 2018

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**JOIN »**

**DOE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES »**

#### Peer Exchange Calls—Register Below

All are invited to take part in these topical calls that serve as a forum to ask questions and engage peers. Register below:

**January 25**

**Beyond Hunches: Using Science to Drive Behavior Change**

1–2:30 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

**February 1**

**Multifamily Program**

downward and circulate it through the room.

3. **Keep out the cold** by installing a windbreak, such as a wall or row of hedges, to block the cold winter wind.
4. **Air seal, then insulate** to reduce the amount of air that leaks in and out of a home and cut heating and cooling costs.
5. **Upgrade windows** to provide a barrier to the cold with low-e coating or by installing storm windows.

For details on these tips and more information, visit the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy's [Energy Savers blog](#).

## Report Highlights Using Smart Technology to Analyze Upgrade Benefits

A [new report](#) from Residential Network member the [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy \(ACEEE\)](#) looks at how information technologies and communication networks are enabling new ways of tracking and analyzing the benefits of saving energy

beyond cost savings. Researchers suggest that new technologies, such as smart thermostats, lighting, and appliances, add convenience that could be more important to some customers than cost savings. The report explores techniques for gathering data using automation enabled by WiFi networks, cloud computing, and inexpensive sensors to better understand the benefits of saving energy and how new technologies might impact state and utility policies.

Read the [full report](#) to learn more.

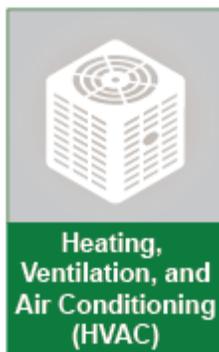
## New Technology Resources Available in the Residential Program Solution Center

The Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center is branching out with more information about the technical aspects of home performance programs. [A new section focused on technology solutions](#) includes information about innovative technologies, installation guidance, and potential energy savings.

Highlighted technologies include [HVAC systems](#) and [heat pump water heaters](#). These new pages provide easy access to reports, best practices, and other resources to support program offerings.



Photo: National Renewable Energy Laboratory



### Strategies That Hit Home

1–2:30 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

### February 8

#### Going for Gold: Medal-Worthy Approaches to Energy Efficiency

1–2:30 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

### February 15

#### New Tools in the Toolbox: A Fresh Take on Financing

1–2:30 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

### February 22

#### Kick the Cold: The Intersection of Healthy Homes and Energy Efficiency

1–2:30 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

## Find the Latest Peer Exchange Call Summaries

Review recent call summaries:

- November 2, 2017  
[The Beatles, Beastie Boys, and Beyoncé: Residential Energy Efficiency Messaging for Different Generations](#)
- November 9, 2017  
[Money Down the Drain: The Energy-Water Nexus](#)
- November 16, 2017  
[Wicked Smart: Optimizing Diagnostics through Home Energy Monitoring](#)
- November 30, 2017  
[Solar Decathlon 2017: Winning Innovations in Efficiency, Health, and Water](#)
- December 7, 2017  
[DOE Toolkit Launch: A New Approach to Evaluate as You Go](#)

## Residential Program Solution Center Spotlight

Explore the [Residential Program Solution Center](#) to accelerate market adoption of select advanced technologies and help reach energy efficiency program targets, or see other residential energy efficiency program solutions in this valuable resource.

## NREL's New Research Tool, ResStock, Has Identified \$49 Billion in Annual Cost-Effective Residential Energy Savings Potential

With support from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the National Renewable Energy



Laboratory (NREL) created 48 fact sheets that highlight residential energy efficiency opportunities specific to each state, excluding Hawaii and Alaska. These fact sheets are helping decision makers in cities, states, manufacturers, and utility companies identify the most cost-effective and impactful residential energy efficiency improvements. These resources are among many that NREL researchers are developing to elevate the science of building systems integration, paving the way for a more efficient, resilient, reliable, and autonomous grid.

Tap into these resources and distribute this vital information to your networks. For more information, visit the [ResStock website](#), read the [news story](#), or contact NREL's [Eric Wilson](#).

## City of Fort Collins, Colorado, Shows Efficiency Is the Rocky Mountain Way

Each spring, the Better Buildings Residential Network asks members to report the number of annual upgrades they completed, as well as any associated benefits or other accomplishments, through the [Reporting and Recognition Template](#). Submitting this information to DOE is the only requirement of Residential Network membership.



Residential Network member the [City of Fort Collins, Colorado](#), was one of the top 10 finalists in this year's [Georgetown University Energy Prize](#) competition, and it's no wonder. In fiscal year 2016, the city reported completing upgrades in 331 homes encompassing 980 energy efficiency measures, which resulted in annual energy savings of 428,650 kilowatt-hours of electricity and 388,370 therms of natural gas.

## Meet the Members



*Photo: Connecticut Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge*

**Q:** How can we maintain homeowner interest following an outreach push or energy assessment?

**A:** Visit the [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#) to find the answer.

### Related Events

#### [Midwest Energy Solutions Conference](#)

February 7–8, 2018  
Chicago, Illinois

#### [2018 Home Performance Coalition \(HPC\) New York Regional Home Performance Conference and Trade Show](#)

February 13–14, 2018  
Saratoga Springs, New York

#### [Association of Energy Services Professionals \(AESP\) 2018 National Conference and Expo](#)

February 19–22, 2018  
New Orleans, Louisiana

#### [2018 Residential Energy Services Network \(RESNET\) Conference](#)

February 26–28, 2018  
Orlando, Florida

#### [2018 HPC National Home Performance Conference and Trade Show](#)

April 23–26, 2018  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

#### [ACEEE 2018 Energy Efficiency Finance Forum](#)

May 21–22, 2018  
Tarrytown, New York

#### [AESP Spring Conference, 2018](#)

May 21–23, 2018  
Atlanta, Georgia

#### [ACEEE 2018 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in](#)

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## New Members Join the Network

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



- [Building Performance Consulting](#) (Atlanta, Georgia)
- [Evergreen Home Performance](#) (Rockland, Maine)
- [Refresh Smart Home](#) (Mount Kisco, New York)
- Stellar Energy (Ester, Alaska)
- [Terrawatt](#) (Kamuela, Hawaii)

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

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## Resource Corner

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### Latest Reports Emphasize Intelligent Efficiency

- "[Making the Case for Energy Efficiency](#)" (E4TheFuture blog, November 2017)
- "[Smarter Homebuilding: How to Best Incorporate Smart Tech Features](#)" (*Home Energy Magazine* blog, November 2017)
- "[New data, same results—Saving energy is still cheaper than making energy](#)" (ACEEE blog, December 2017)

If your organization has recently published a report or distributed a press release, we want to hear from you. Send your announcement to the [Better Buildings Residential Network](#), so we can be aware of it for future issues of the *Network View* or share it on social media.

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## Share the View

Forward this email to colleagues or encourage them to sign up to receive each issue themselves. To subscribe, they can simply [email the Residential Network](#).

### Buildings

August 12–17, 2018  
Pacific Grove, California

*Does your organization have an event you would like us to feature? Email the details to [Better Buildings Residential Network Support](#).*

### Social Media Spotlight



Photo: @ConsumersEnergy

With frigid temperatures putting a strain on residents' resources, Residential Network member [Consumers Energy](#) (Michigan) tweeted tips for staying safe and saving money in cold weather. [Learn more](#) on consumers' website.

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