

## Building America System Innovations:



## Accelerating Innovation in Home Energy Savings

Building America System  
Research

Eric Werling, DOE

Ren Anderson, NREL

[eric.werling@ee.doe.gov](mailto:eric.werling@ee.doe.gov), 202-586-0410

[ren.anderson@nrel.gov](mailto:ren.anderson@nrel.gov), 303-384-7443

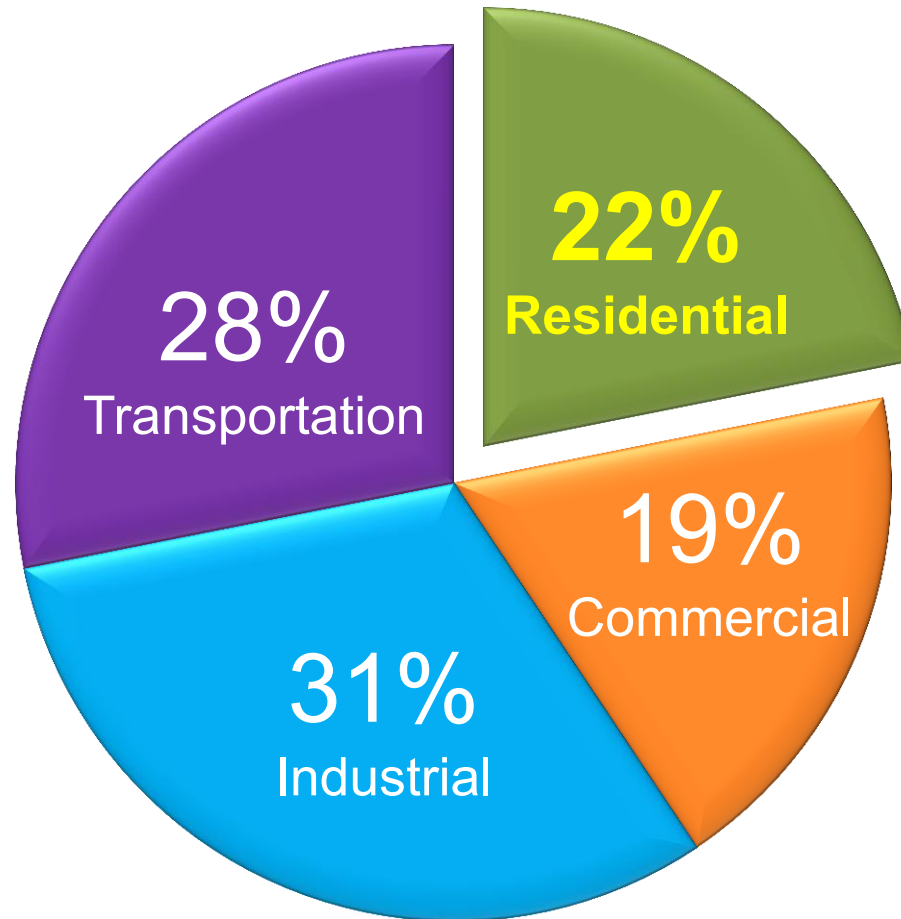
April 2, 2013

# Project Relevance

## Building America Fills Market Need for a High-Performance Homes **HUB of Innovation**

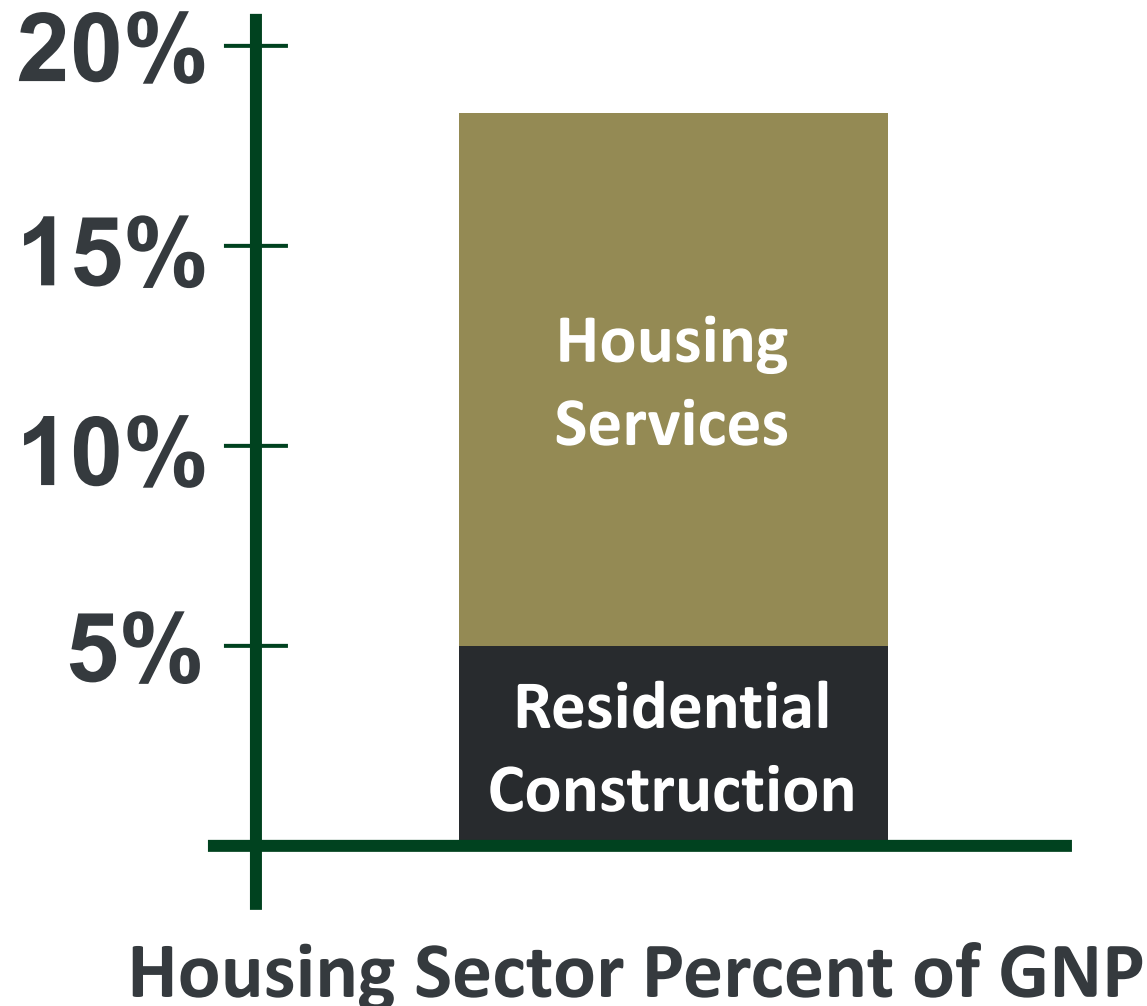


# Building America Business Case Residential Energy Use Significant



## U.S. Energy Consumption

# Building America Business Case Housing Industry Economic Impact



Source: NAHB data through Q1 2012

**~\$2,200:** Average Annual Household Energy Bill

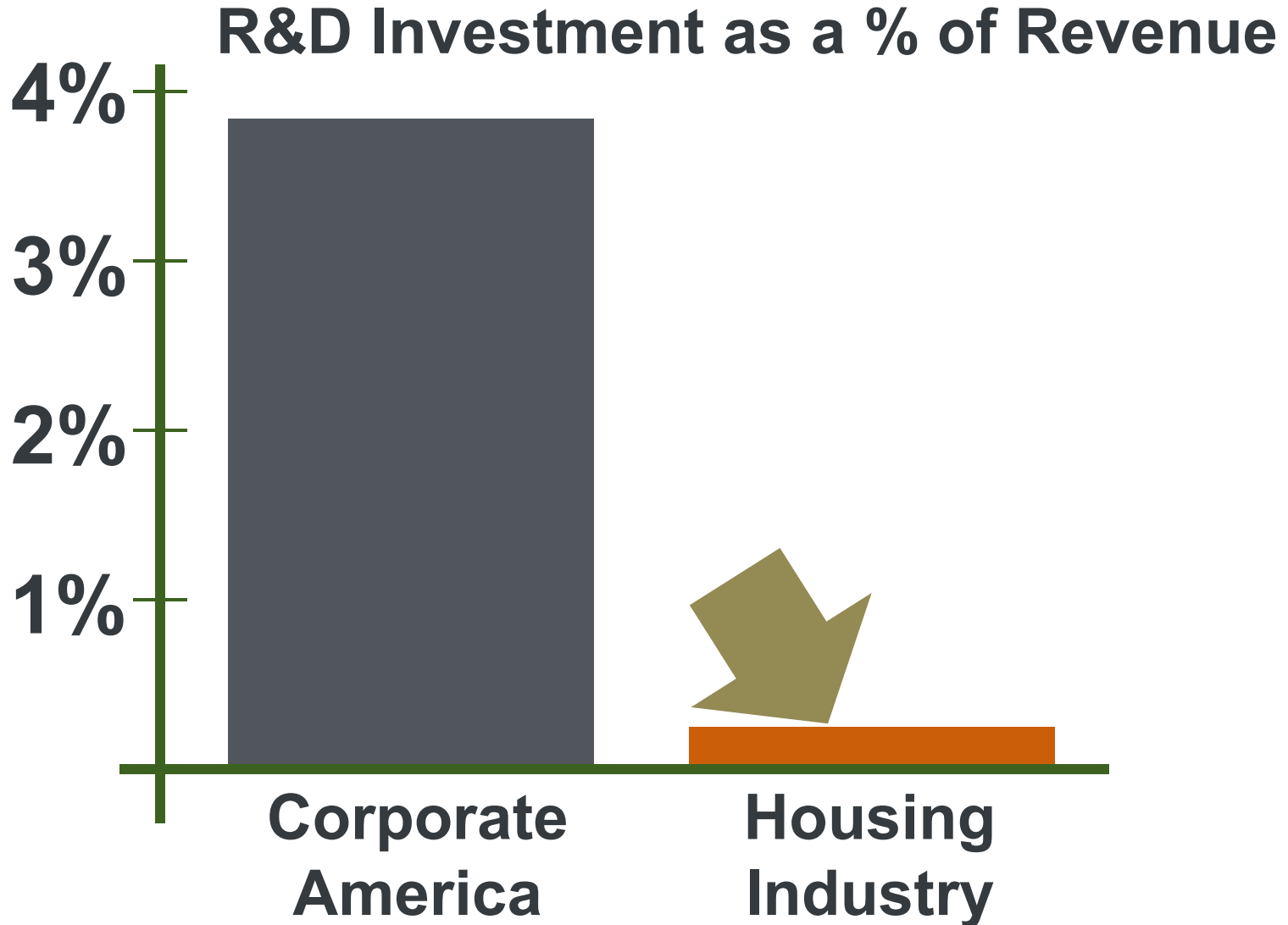
**>113,000,000:** DOE Housing Units in America

**>\$240 Billion:** Amount spent on home utility bills per year.

**>\$120 Billion:** Available to the economy

if we make our houses **50% more efficient**

(i.e., President SOTU address)



**\$2,200:** Average Annual Household Energy Bill

**\$1,100** Annual Value of **50% Savings**

**<\$20M:** DOE Building America R&D Budget

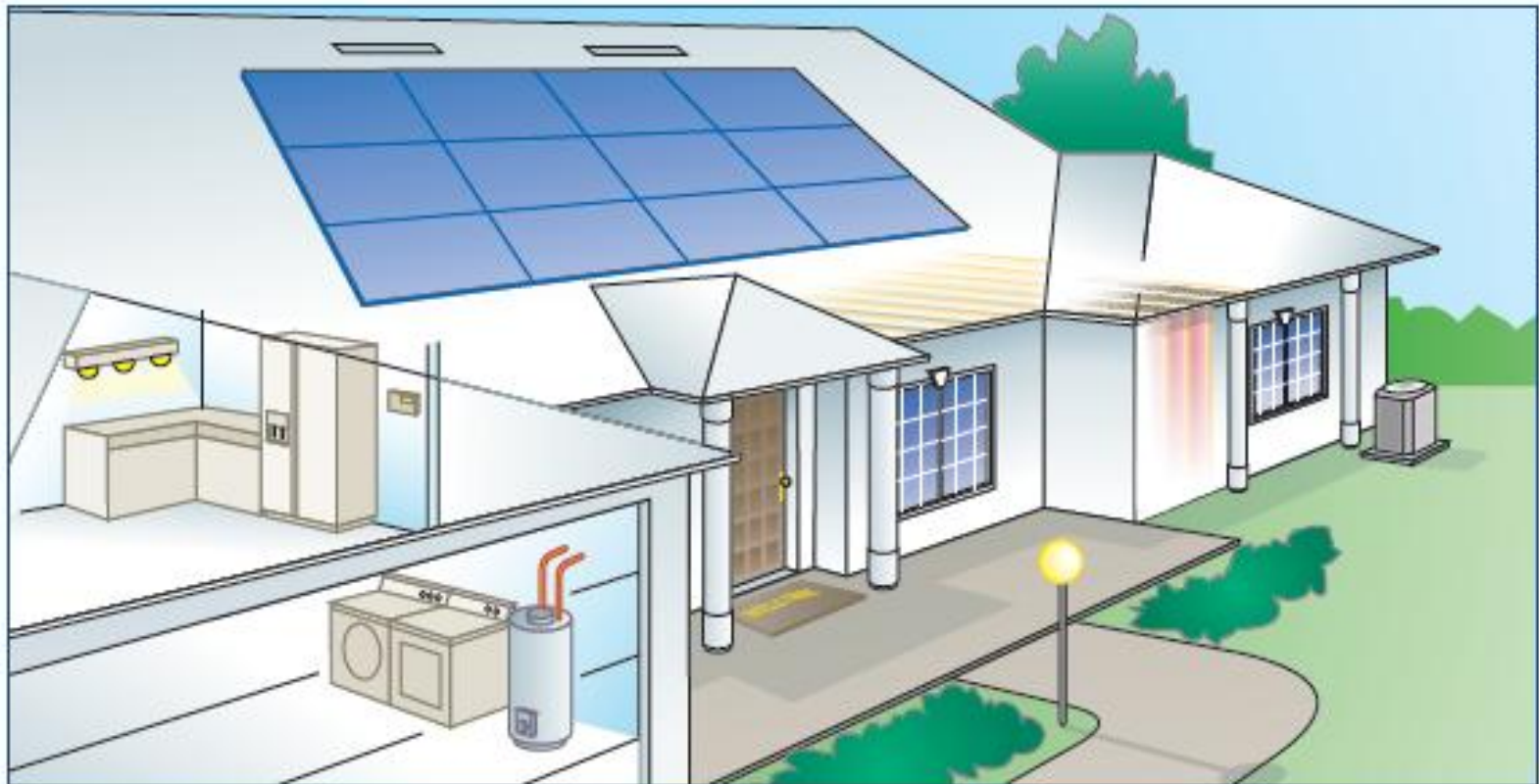
**~200M:** U.S. Taxpayers

Annual Cost per Taxpayer less than:





**Problem Statement:** Low industry R&D investments and System-level risks and barriers slow the rate of energy innovation in the residential building sector.



Alfred Hicks, NREL

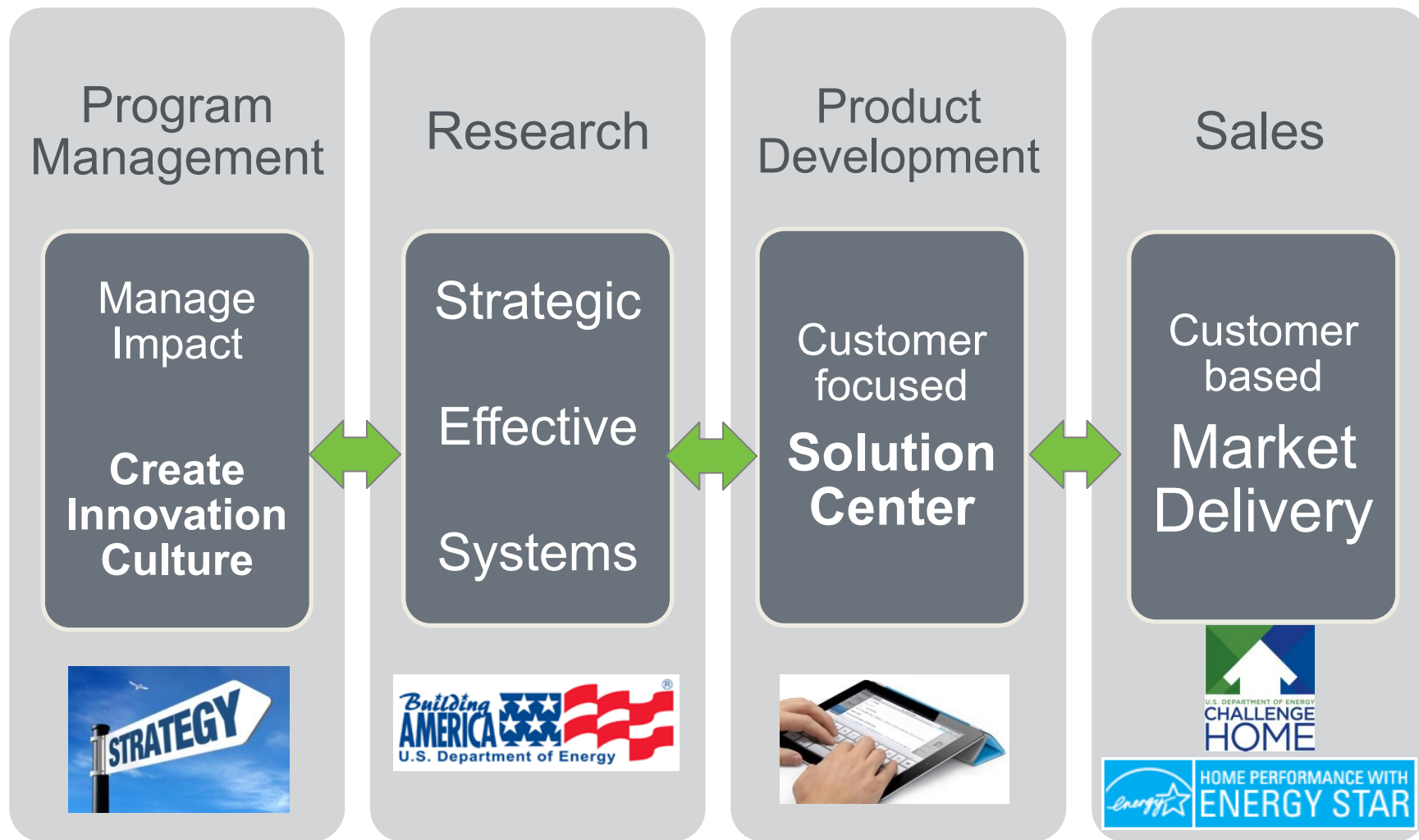
**Project Focus:** *Building America focuses on “whole house” system-level research required to resolve early market entry barriers to innovation.*

## BTO Portfolio Element

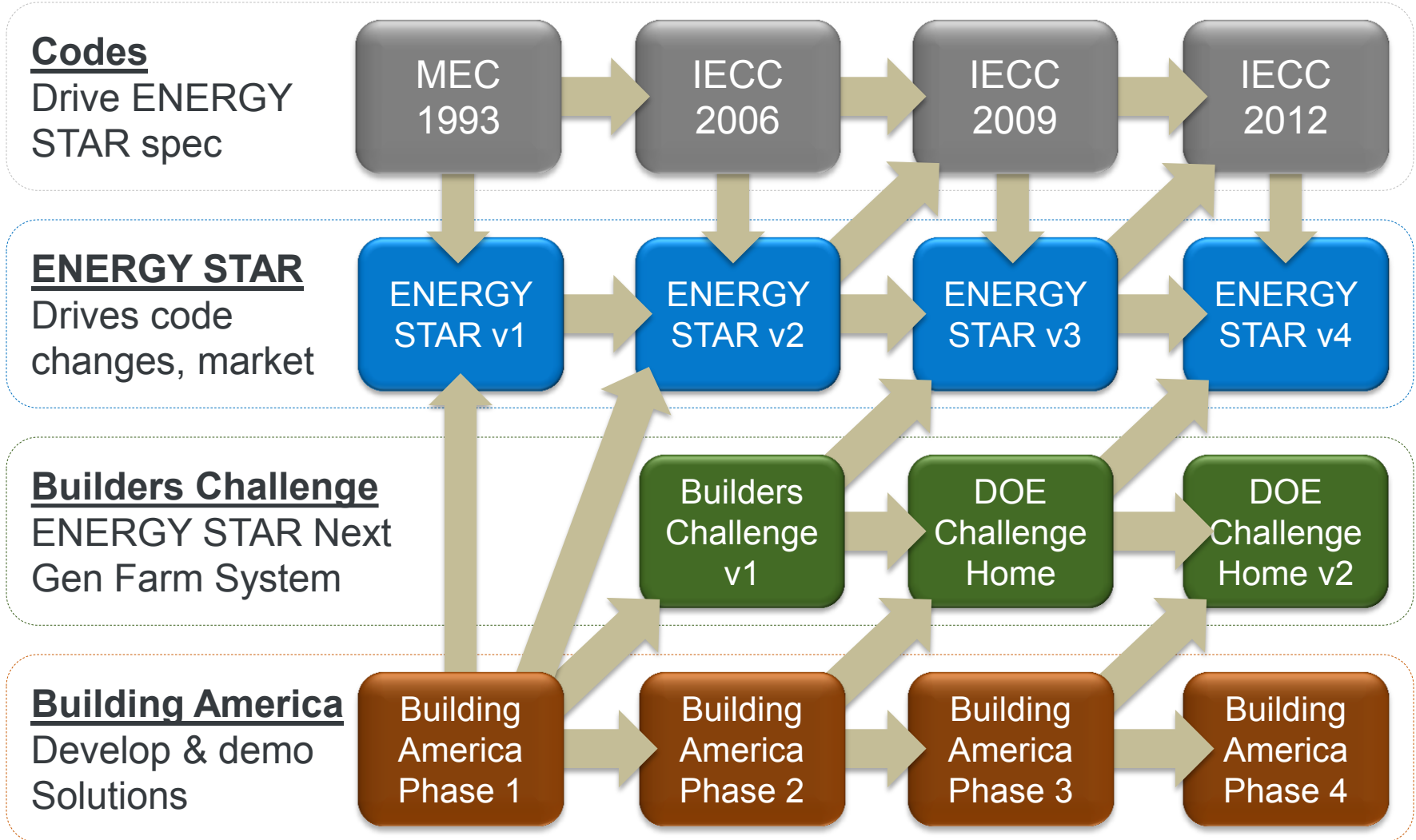


# Approach/Project Management

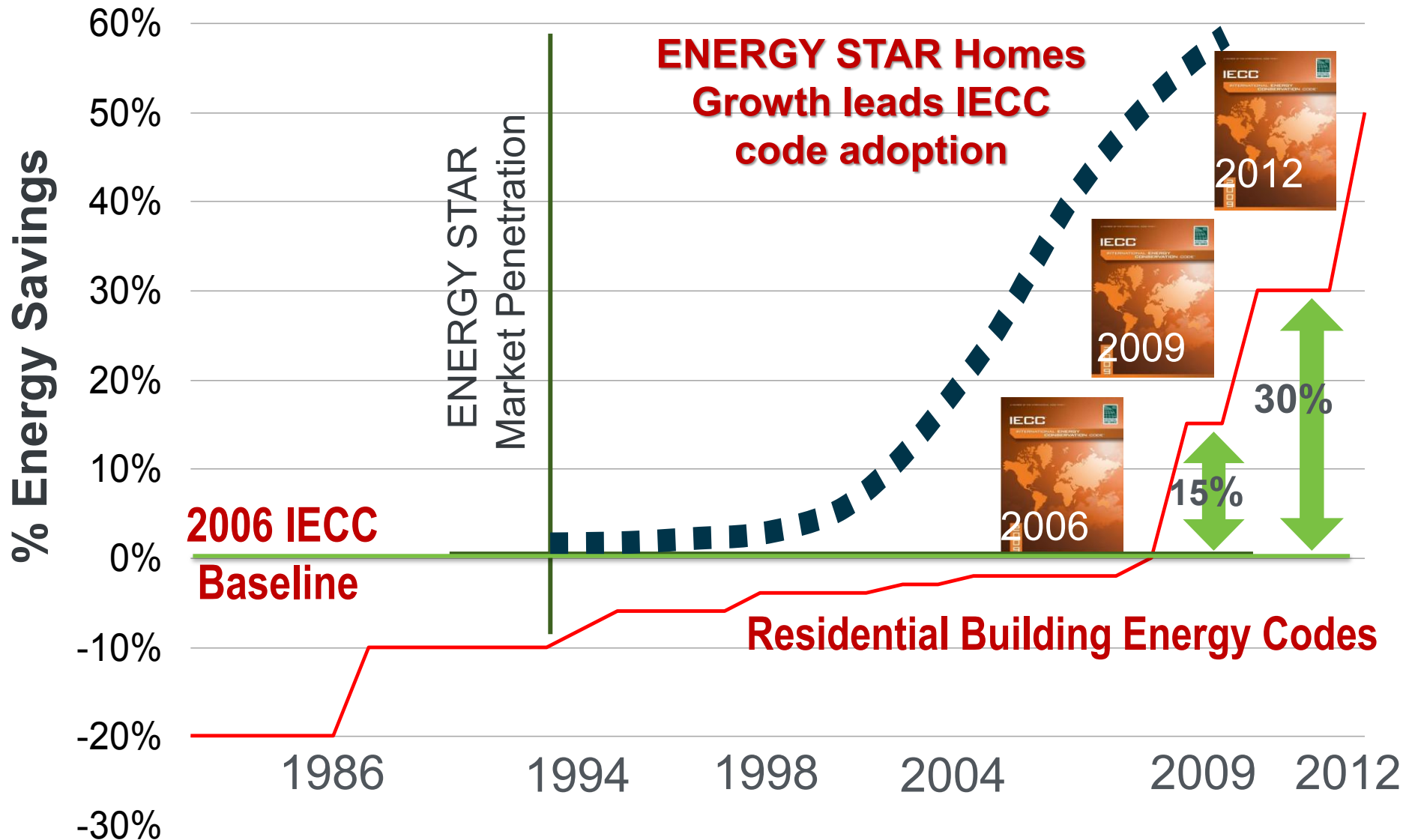
# Building America Strategy: Research to Market Transformation



# Market Transformation Process



# Market Transformation Results



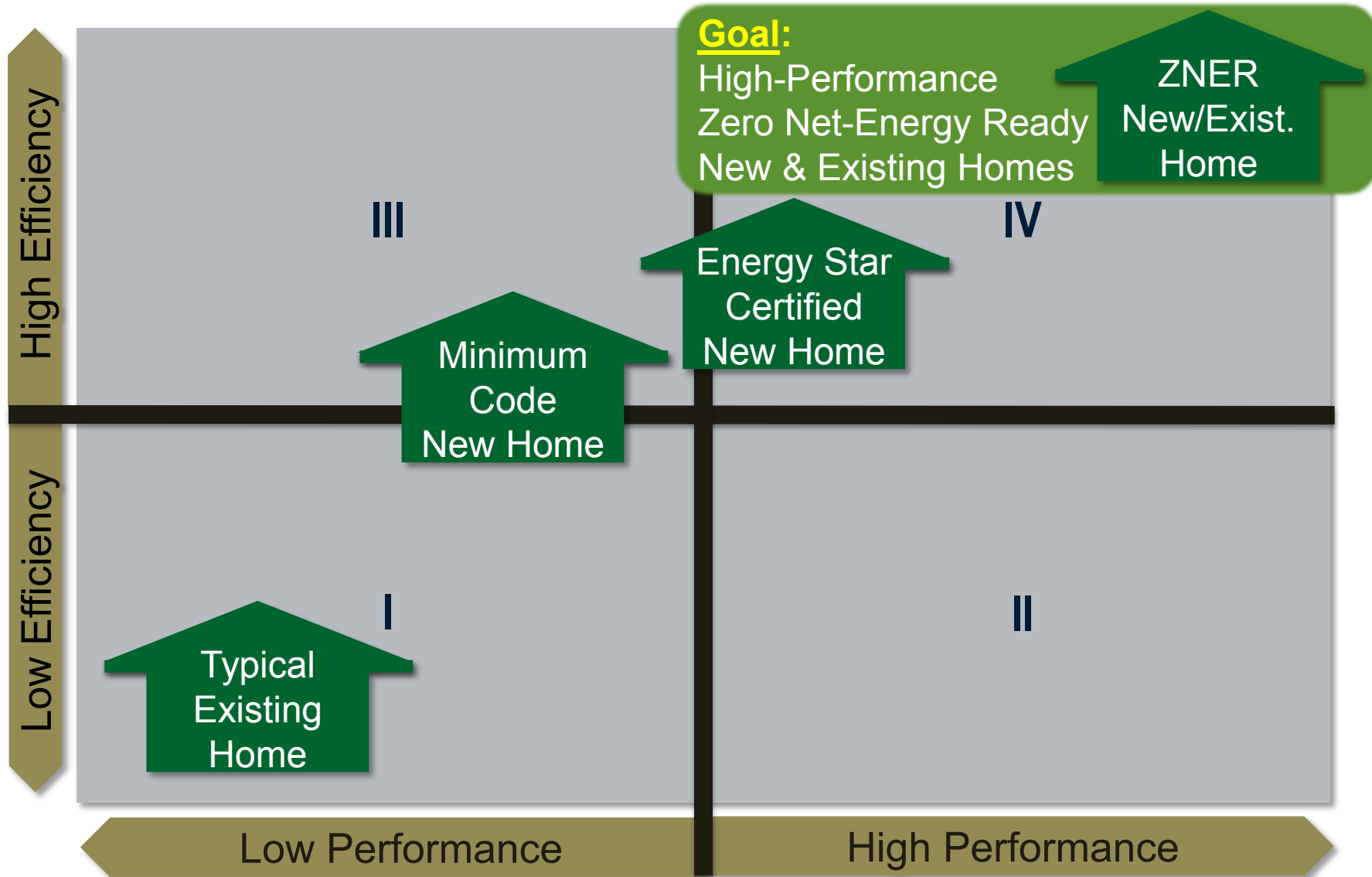
## 1. Efficiency

- Thermal Enclosure (“Envelope”)
- Low-Load HVAC
- Efficient Components

## 2. Performance

- Comfort
- Health
- Durability
- Renewable Readiness/Integration
- Water Conservation
- Disaster Resistance

# Building America Goal





# Building America Technology Path

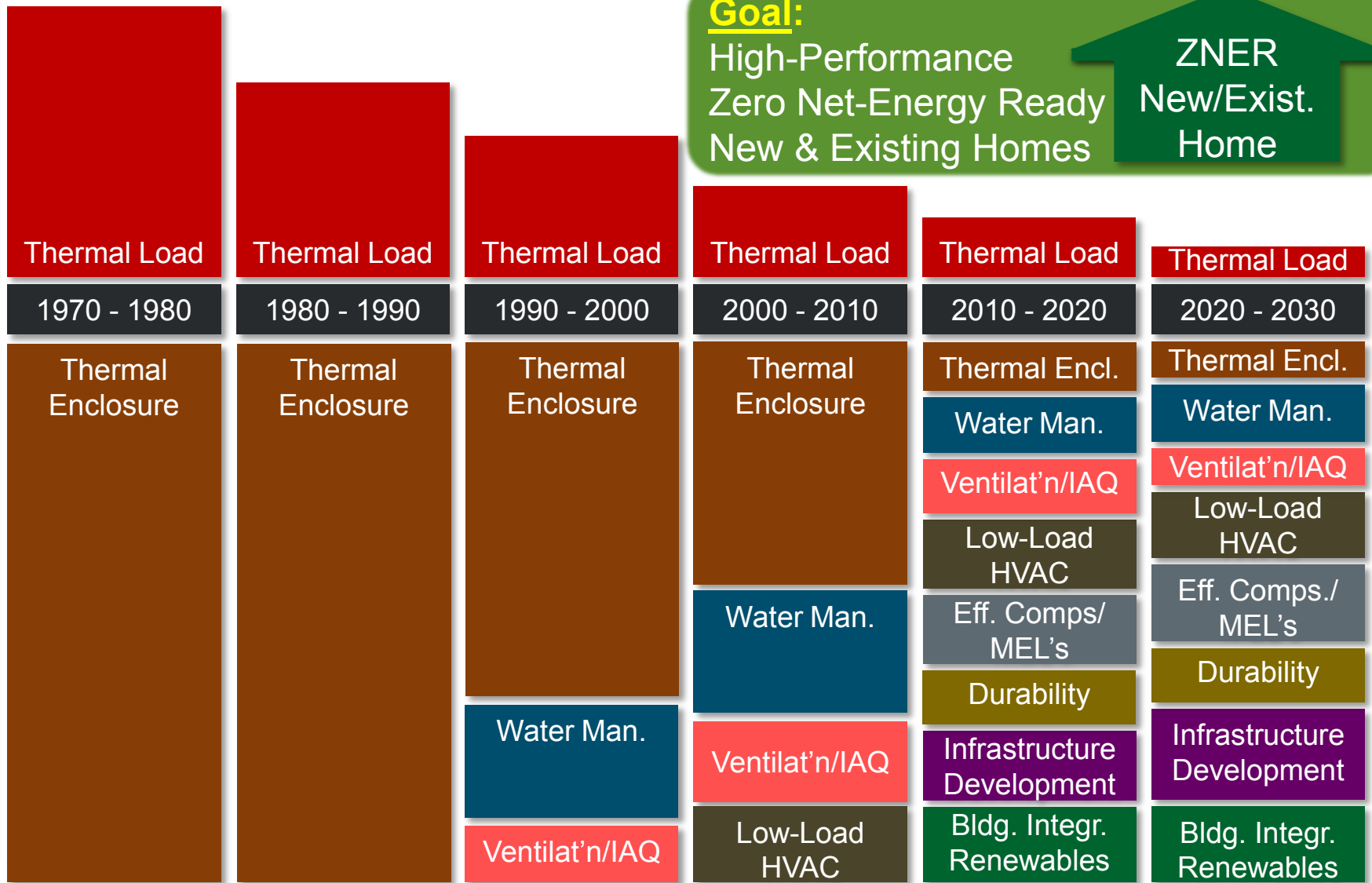
Thermal Load

Resulting Research Priorities

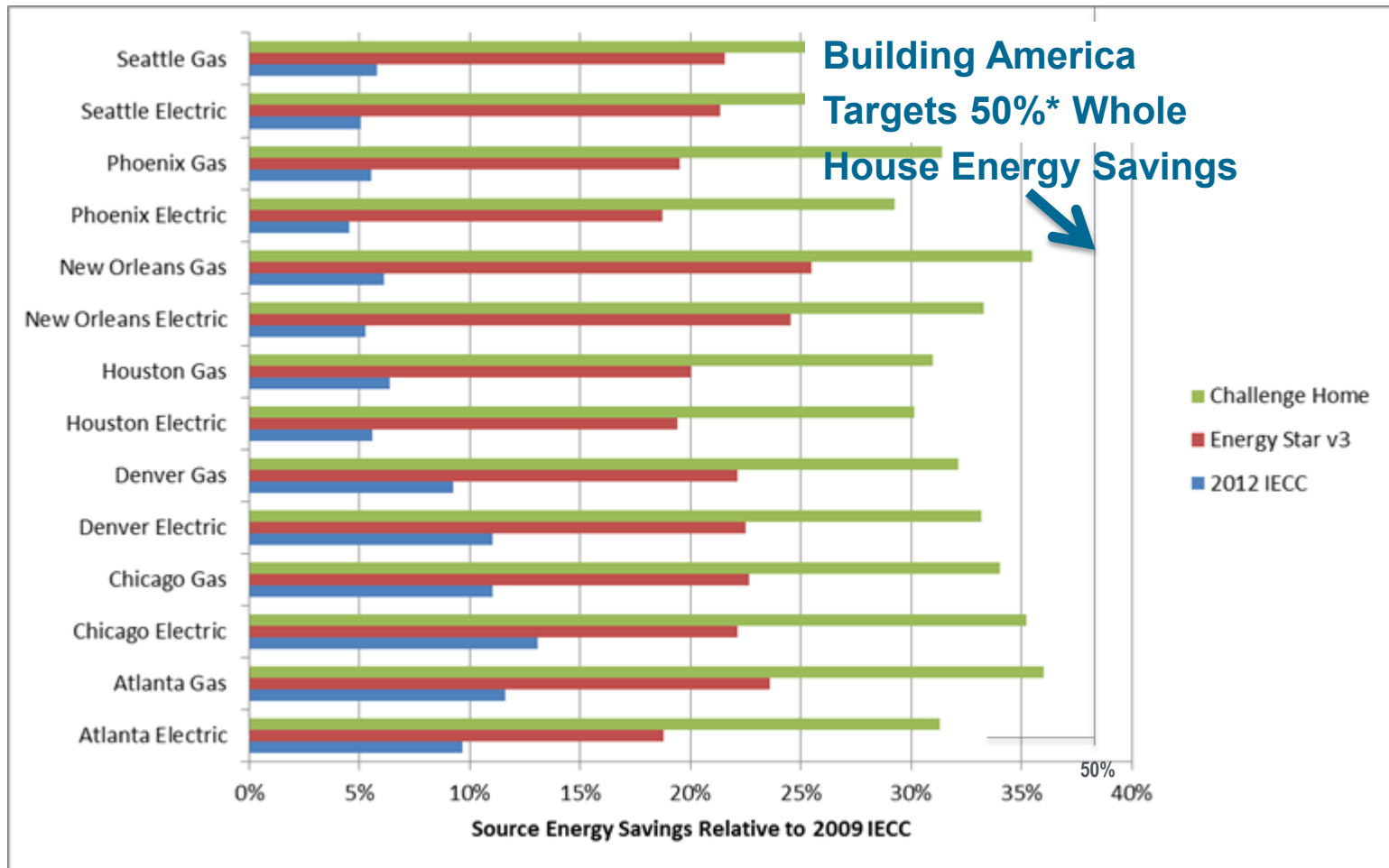
**Goal:**  
High-Performance  
Zero Net-Energy Ready  
New & Existing Homes



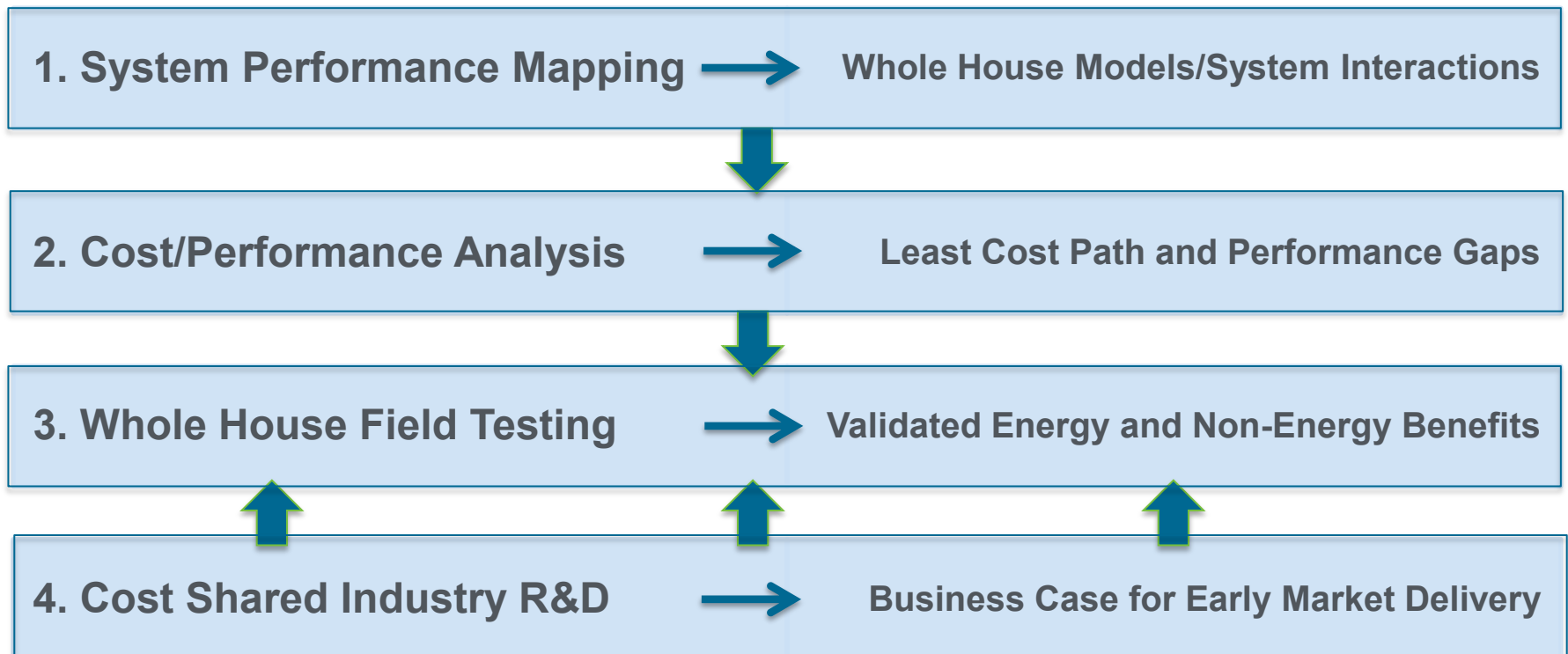
**ZNER  
New/Exist.  
Home**



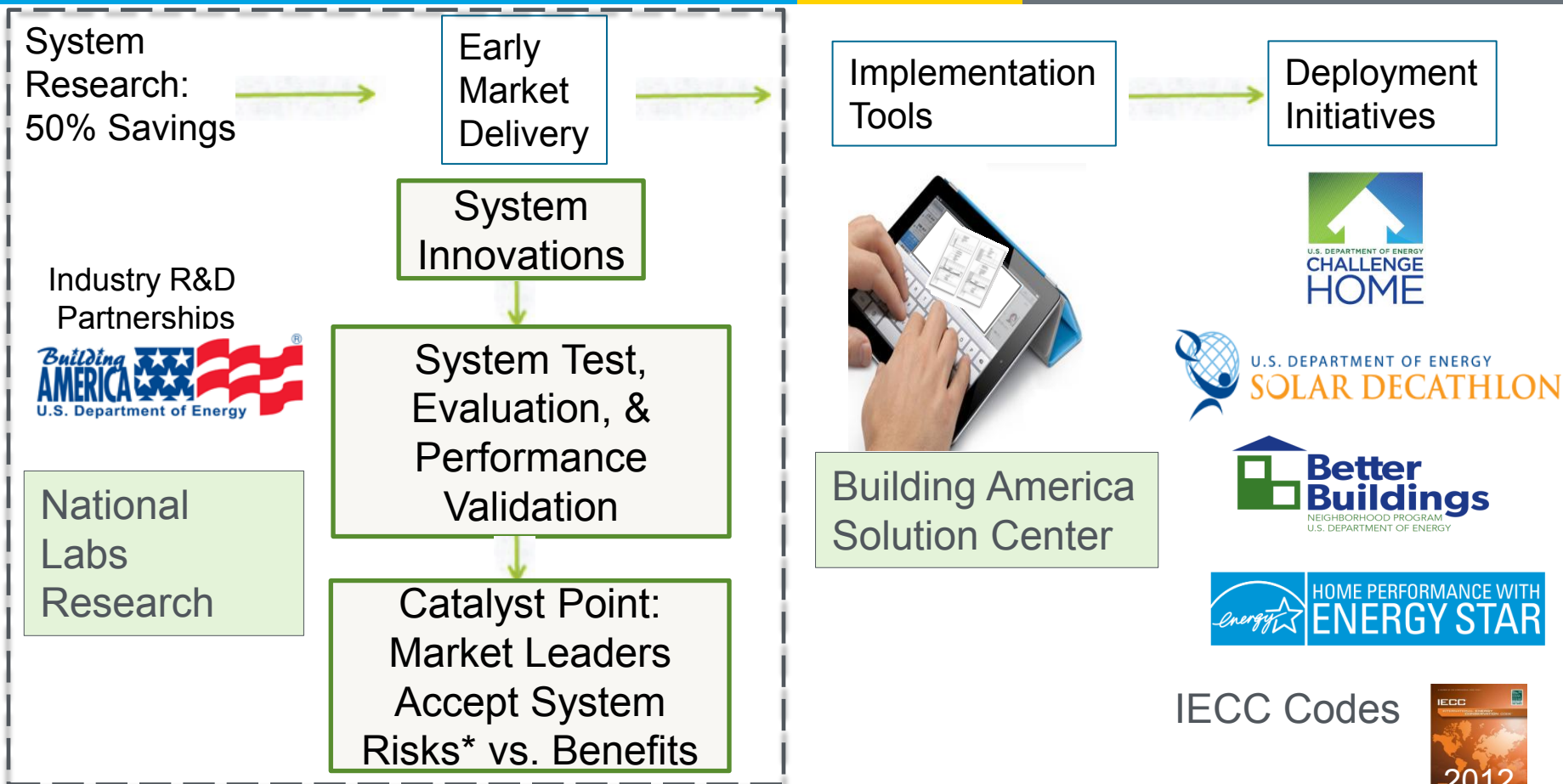
**Impact of Project:** *Whole house system innovations, leading to 50% energy savings in new and existing homes.*



**System Research Approach:** *Building America system research portfolio includes four key elements (project types):*



# System Research Approach



\*Risks that limit broad market acceptance include issues with durability, reliability, and costs

The residential program is grounded on technology and systems research. This research is translated into implementation tools to make solutions accessible to practitioners. Finally, deployment initiatives promote speed and scale to successfully transform the market.

**Key Issues:** *Key system research issues include moisture management and cladding attachment in high R wall systems and development of low load HVAC and distribution systems for homes with 50% smaller loads than current homes.*

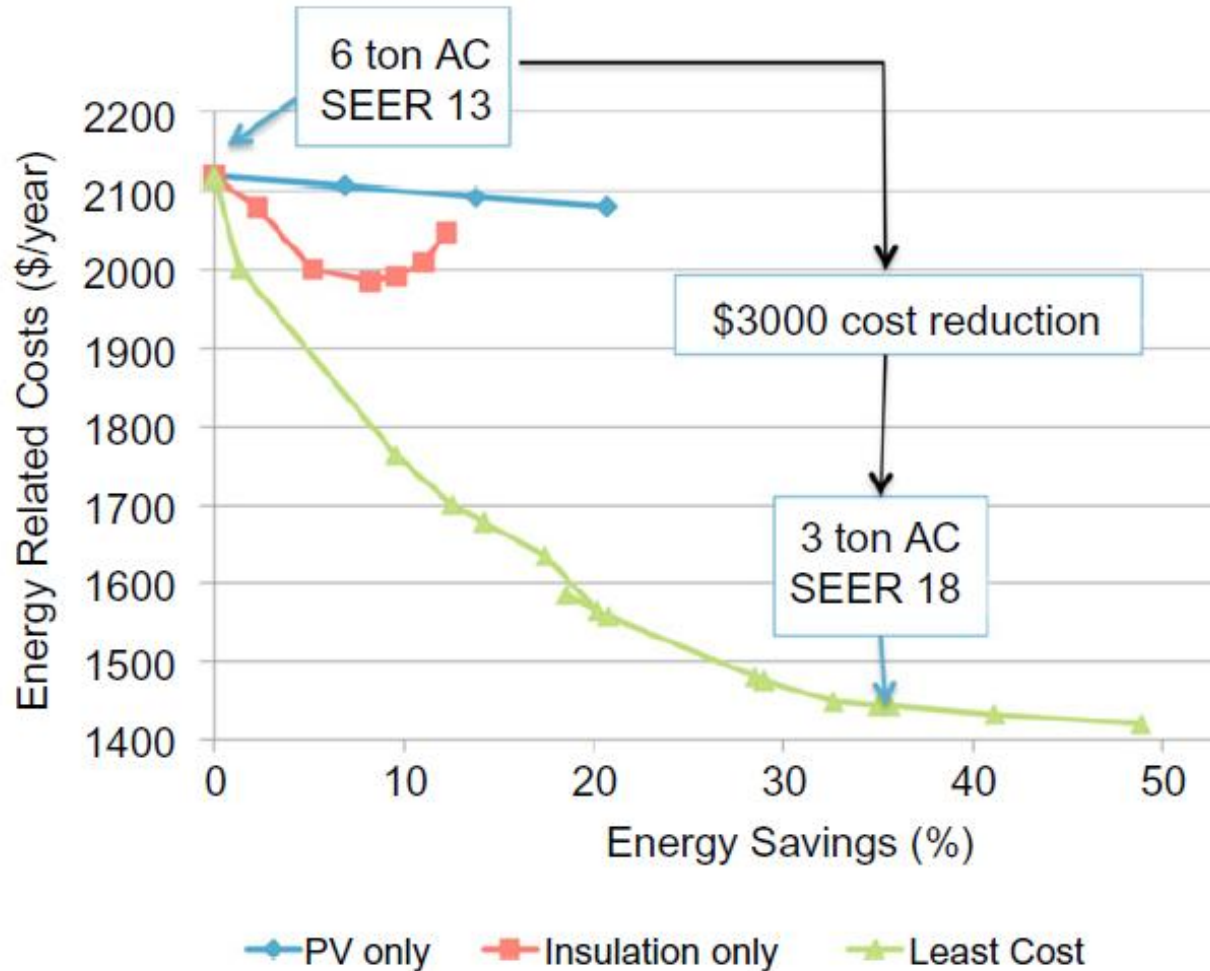


## Vapor Retarder Definitions

The 2009 IRC R601.3 gives the following definitions and examples for vapor retarder classes:

Class	Definition	Examples
I	$\leq 0.1$ perm	Sheet polyethylene, sheet metal, non-perforated aluminum foil, foil-faced insulation sheathing
II	$> 0.1$ to $< 1.0$ perm	Kraft-faced fiberglass batts or low-perm paint, unfaced expanded polystyrene, fiber-faced polyisocyanurate
III	$> 1.0$ perms	Latex or enamel paint

**Distinctive Characteristics:** *Using a system approach, Building America analyzes tradeoffs to maximize incremental value & minimize incremental cost.*



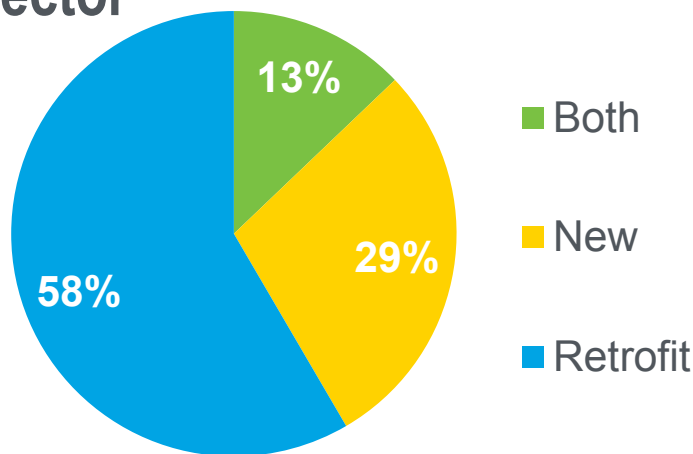
**Systems approach  
out-performs single  
measure approach**

Phoenix, 2500 ft<sup>2</sup>, 2-story,  
\$9000 first cost increase.

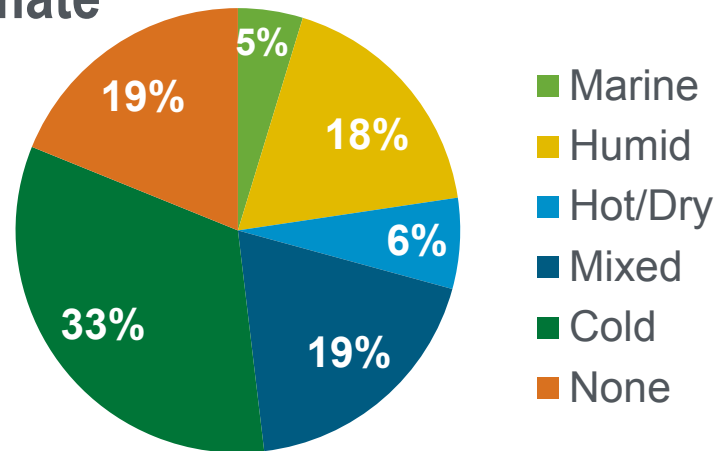


# Building America Project Portfolio: 2012 funded projects ...

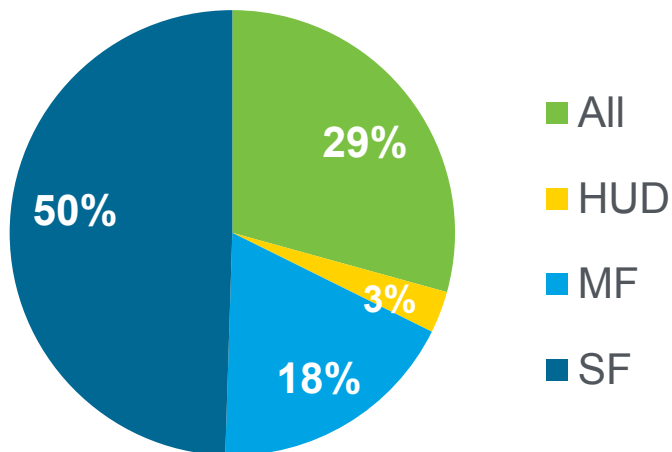
## by Sector



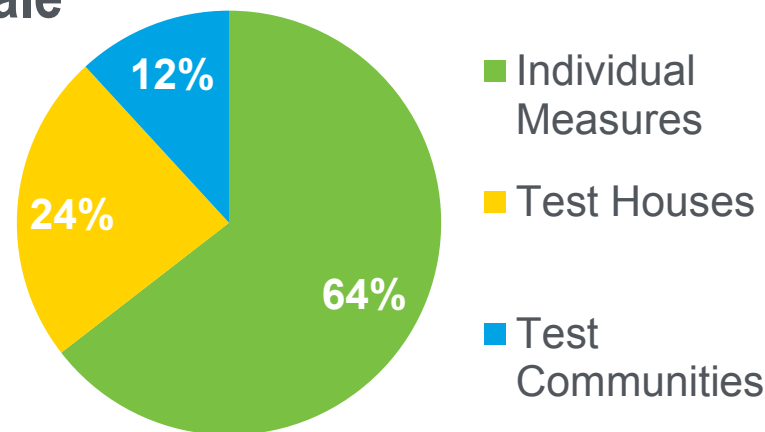
## by Climate



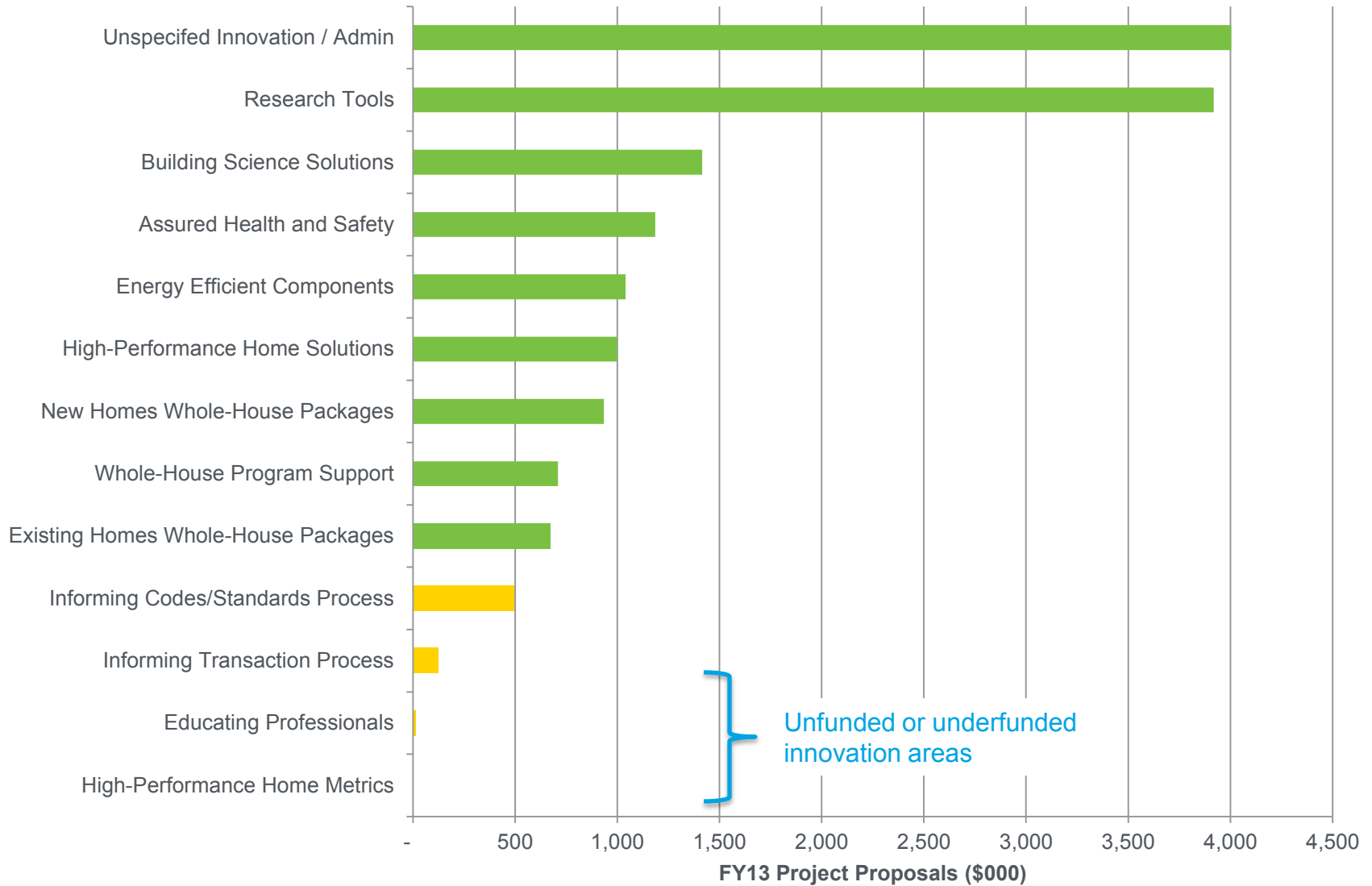
## by House Type



## by Scale



# Targeted Innovation Gaps - 2013





## World Class Building Systems Research

Building America Solution Center  
BASC.energy.gov



## At Your Fingertips!

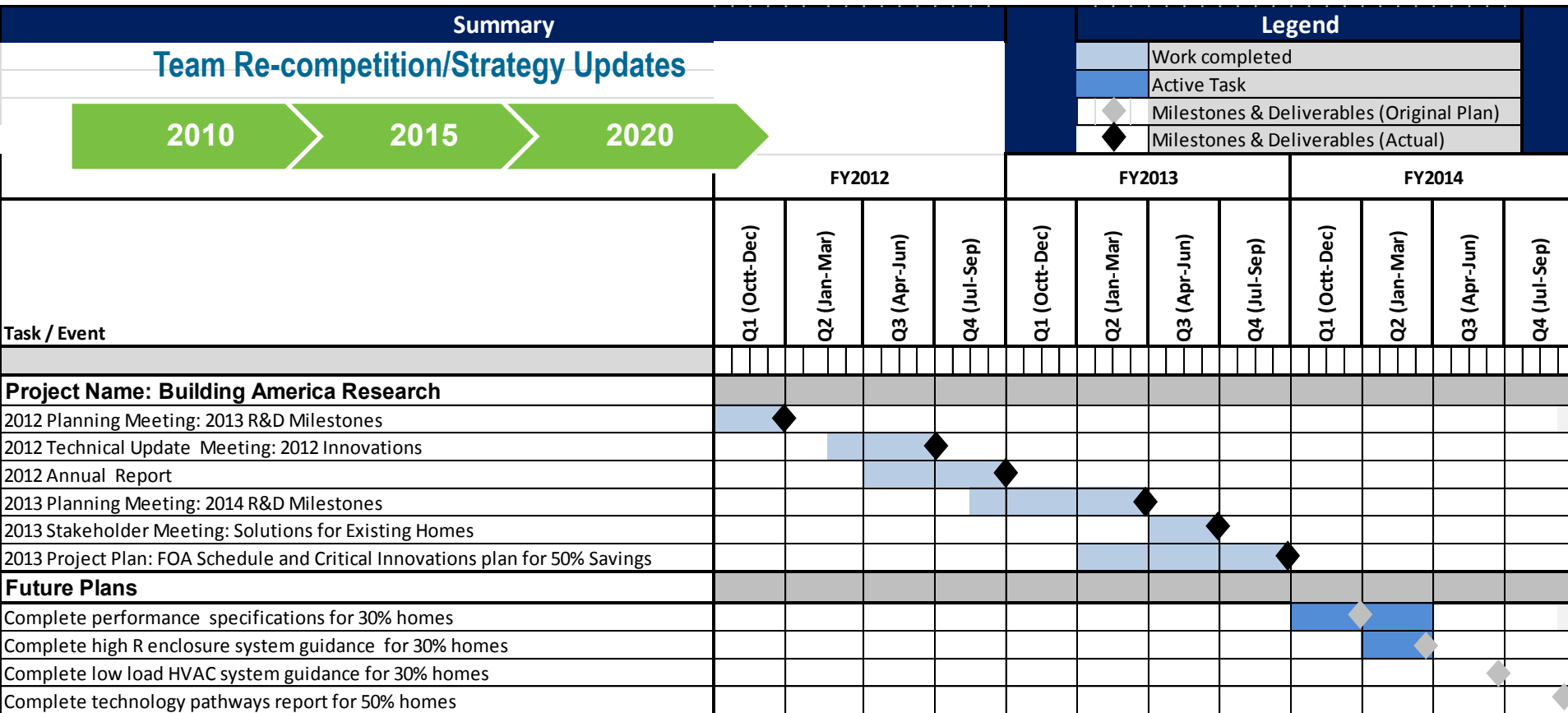
[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/residential/ba\\_solution\\_center.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/residential/ba_solution_center.html)

# Project Plan & Schedule

*Project original initiation date: 1/1/2010*

*Project planned completion, 30% savings: 12/31/2014*

*Project planned completion, 50% savings: 12/31/2020*



## Project Budget

**Variances:** *None*

**Cost to Date:** *Expenditures are on track with annual spending plan: 50% costed at 50% point.*

**Additional Funding:** *Cost share from industry partners averages 20% of total project cost including building materials and labor for test houses and in kind .*

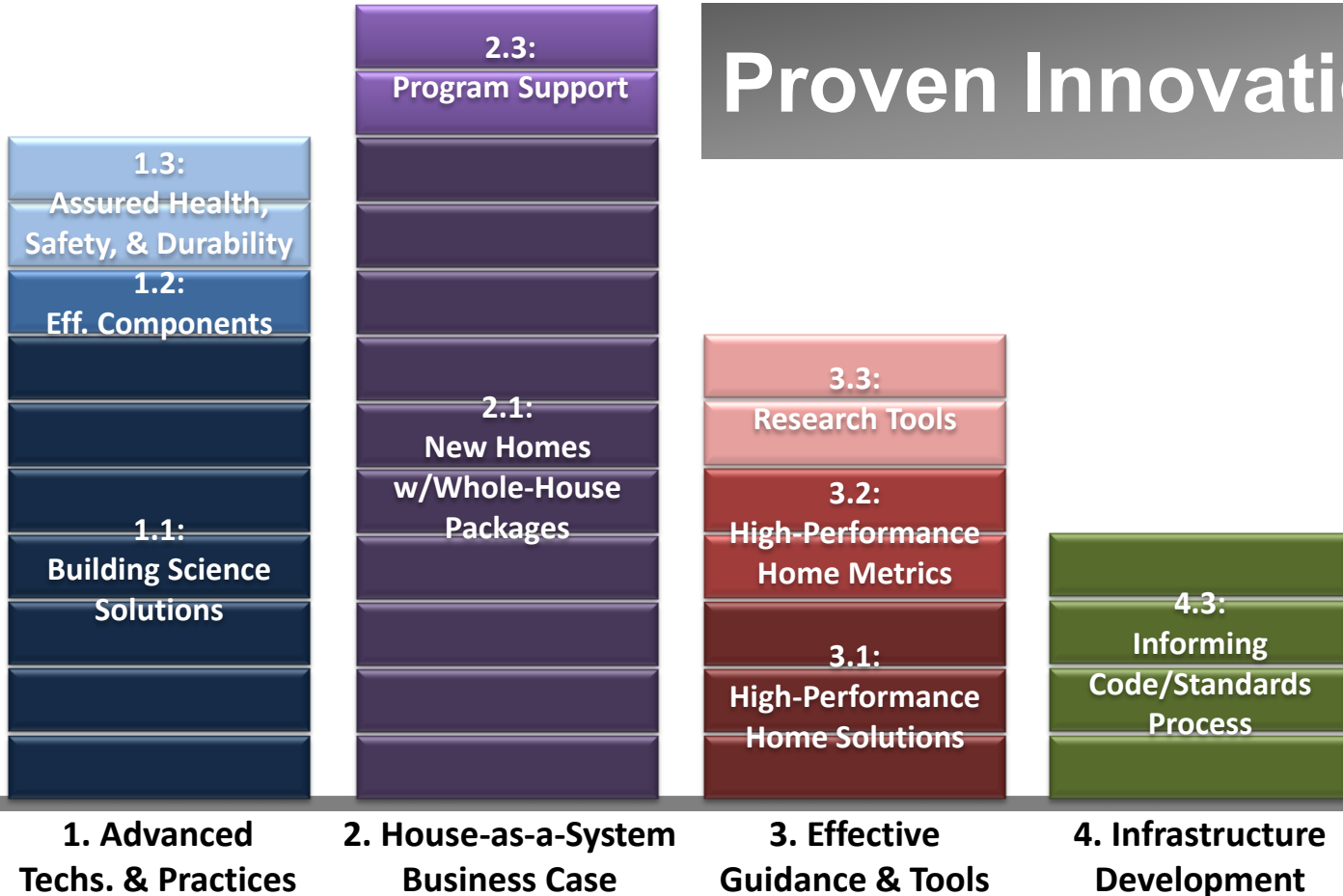
Budget History					
FY2010		FY2011		FY2012	
DOE	Cost-share	DOE	Cost-share	DOE	Cost-share
\$30 million	\$6 million	\$20 million	\$4 million	\$15 million	\$3 million

**10 industry teams, 4 universities, 4 national laboratories**

# Progress and Accomplishments

# Accomplishments and Progress: Proven Innovations

## Proven Innovations:



## Gaps:

2.2:  
Existing Homes w/  
Whole-House Pkgs.

4.1:  
Educating  
Professionals

4.2:  
Recognize Value in  
Transaction Proc.

# Accomplishments and Progress: Proven Innovations

## 32 Top Innovation Profiles:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY** Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

### BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM

**BUILDING AMERICA TOP INNOVATIONS 'HALL OF FAME' PROFILE**



INNOVATIONS CATEGORY:  
2. House-as-a-System Business Case  
2.3 Program Support

### ENERGY STAR for Homes Support

GW Robinson, a production home builder in Gainesville, Florida, worked with Building America to build all 290 units at its Cobblefield development to ENERGY STAR criteria. The builder was one of several featured in a series of guides produced by Building America to help builders achieve ENERGY STAR with climate-appropriate energy-efficiency measures (Baechler et al. 2004-06).

ENERGY STAR for Homes performance metrics gave evidence of a profound impact on our nation's housing: in 2011 alone 30% of builders (8,500 builder partners) built over 13 million ENERGY STAR homes that delivered \$23 billion in energy cost savings and avoided 210 million tons of green-house emissions. Strong technical underpinnings from Building America have been critical to this success.



#### BUILDING AMERICA TOP INNOVATIONS

*Recognizing Top Innovations in Building Science* - The U.S. Department of Energy's Building America program was started in 1995 to provide research and development to the residential new construction and remodeling industry. As a national center for world-class research, Building America funds integrated research in market-ready technology solutions through collaborative partnerships between building and remodeling industry leaders, nationally recognized building scientists, and the national laboratories. Building America Top Innovation Awards recognize those projects that have had a profound or transforming impact on the new and retrofit housing industries on the road to high-performance homes.

*ENERGY STAR for Homes, with critical support from DOE's Building America program, has been transformative, leading the U.S. housing industry to high-performance homes and driving the development of a national Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Infrastructure.*

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DOE, helping U.S. citizens save money and protect the environment through energy-efficient products and practices. Through ENERGY STAR for New Homes, the DOE and EPA have worked to increase the energy efficiency of the nation's new homes (EPA 2012a). More than 127,000 new homes earned the ENERGY STAR in 2011, bringing the total number of certified homes to more than 1.3 million (EPA 2012a).

ENERGY STAR for new homes was first offered late in 1995. At that time, the ENERGY STAR guidelines targeted "low-hanging fruit," improvements such as high-performance windows, improved air sealing, tightly sealed ducts, and efficient heating and cooling equipment. Homes qualified to ENERGY STAR for Homes Version 1 were 30% more efficient than a home built to the 1993 Model Energy Code (MEC). These initial guidelines stayed in effect for 10 years, with some regional modifications to reflect more rigorous local codes or construction practices (EPA 2012a).

The development of a national Home Energy Rating System infrastructure was a major by-product of ENERGY STAR for Homes during the initial Version 1 specification phase. When EPA first introduced ENERGY STAR for homes, the HERS industry had just started and was not ready to support a national program. The Building America Program stepped in to fill this critical gap with much needed technical support by deploying research teams to work directly with the nation's leading builders to develop energy-efficiency innovations. These teams successfully engaged hundreds of builders to join ENERGY STAR for Homes. This early support proved to be the critical jump start needed to build ENERGY STAR's initial momentum while allowing the HERS industry time to mature. Thus, Building America and ENERGY STAR dovetailed perfectly to help transform the building industry to energy-efficient building practices (EPA 2005).

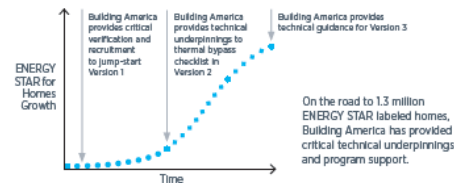
In 2006, EPA developed more stringent guidelines (ENERGY STAR Version 2). The updated guidelines added a Thermal Bypass Checklist, right-sized HVAC systems, and use of efficient lighting and appliances. These guidelines were substantially derived

### BUILDING AMERICA TOP INNOVATIONS 'HALL OF FAME' PROFILE

from best practices advocated by Building America. They became effective on January 1, 2007, and the Thermal Bypass Checklist soon after was substantially adopted in the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

In response to increasing code requirements and improving construction practices, EPA released a third-generation of guidelines (ENERGY STAR for Homes Version 3) that took full effect on July 1, 2012. Homes built to ENERGY STAR for Homes Version 3 are approximately 15% more efficient than those built to the 2009 IECC. More importantly, these latest specifications ensure comprehensive building science with detailed checklists substantially informed by Building America research. In addition, DOE is teaming with EPA by making the vast expertise of Building America research teams available for ongoing guidance on the wide array of technical issues and questions required to maintain these specifications.

In October 2010, DOE began developing the 2012 specifications for the DOE Challenge Home in coordination with EPA. The goal was to fully align the old Builders Challenge program with ENERGY STAR for Homes to ensure a unified federal government voice and process for promoting advanced building science. DOE envisions the effort as an opportunity to "road-test" building science measures targeted for the next new homes specification" while providing an opportunity to "promulgate technologies and best practices successfully established in their Building America research program" (EPA 2010).



Building America, DOE Challenge Home, and ENERGY STAR for Homes are examples of how "good government" programs can work together as a system, creating a highly effective market transformation process that culminates in code adoption of new innovations.



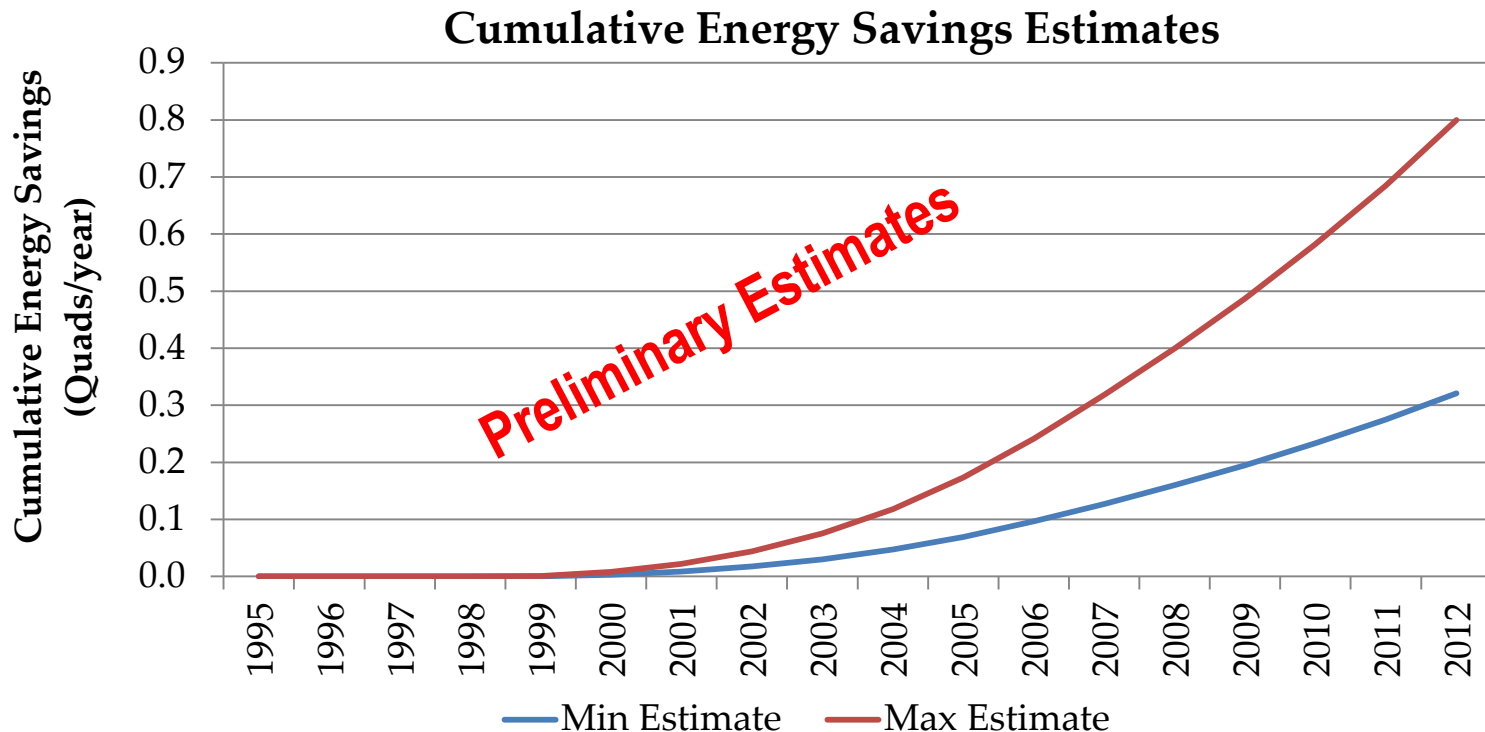
More than 13 million homes nationwide have earned the ENERGY STAR label, as of March 2012.

#### REFERENCES

- Baechler, M.C. et al. 2004-2006. *Building America Best Practices Series: Builders and Buyers Handbook for Improving New Home Efficiency, Comfort, and Durability in the Hot and Humid (etc.) Climates*. Prepared by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy Building America. [www.buildingamerica.gov](http://www.buildingamerica.gov)
- EPA. 2005. 1995-2005: A Decade of Change in Home Building with ENERGY STAR. EPA 430-R-05-002. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/bids\\_tenders\\_raters/downloads/program\\_updates/Update\\_on\\_DecadeChangeHomeBuilding.pdf#4c3-542r](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/bids_tenders_raters/downloads/program_updates/Update_on_DecadeChangeHomeBuilding.pdf#4c3-542r)
- EPA. 2010. "Update on ENERGY STAR Concept Home." U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/bids\\_tenders\\_raters/downloads/program\\_updates/Update\\_on\\_ES\\_Concept\\_Home.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/bids_tenders_raters/downloads/program_updates/Update_on_ES_Concept_Home.pdf)
- EPA. 2011. "EPA and DOE Strengthen Coordination on Whole Home Energy Efficiency Upgrades." U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home\\_improvement&hwps\\_doe\\_epa](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement&hwps_doe_epa)
- EPA. 2012a. *ENERGY STAR Overview of 2011 Achievements*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/publications/publicdocs/2011\\_4-Page\\_508c\\_060812.pdf#4e0-9f8e](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/publications/publicdocs/2011_4-Page_508c_060812.pdf#4e0-9f8e)
- EPA. 2012b. *History of ENERGY STAR*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=about&tab\\_history](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=about&tab_history)



Since 1995, Building America Innovations have resulted in approximately 0.32-0.80 quads of cumulative energy savings for U.S. homeowners and continue to grow each year (new construction market impacts only).



**These energy savings correspond to a cumulative utility cost savings of approximately \$6.3-\$15.8 Billion.\***

\* Based on 1990-2015 estimates from 2011 Building Energy Data Book, Table 2.3.1

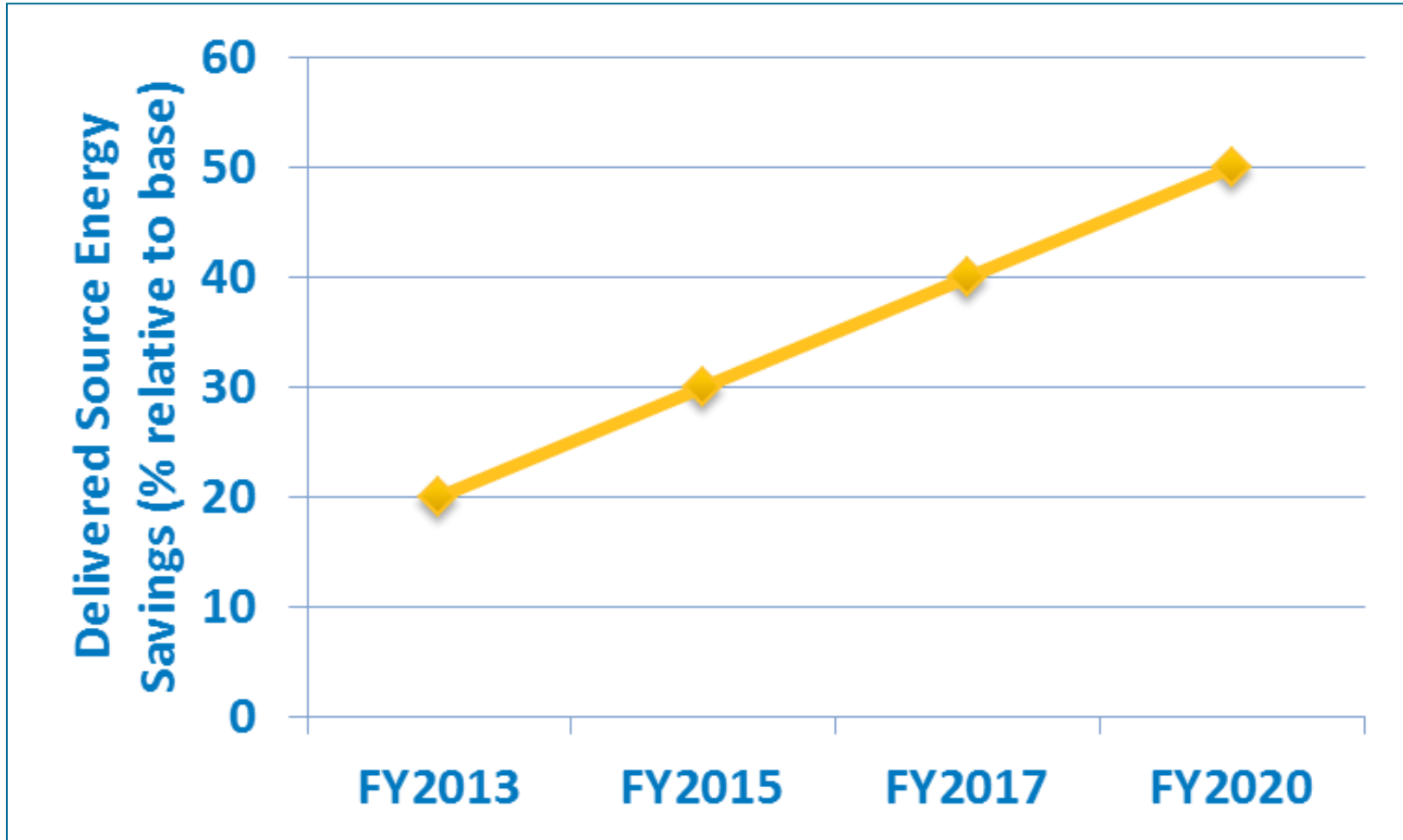
**“Builders do not have the technical resources to evaluate manufacturer’s claims. Building America is the only source of independent research on new technologies. Adoption of BA research has provided real benefits to our customers.”**

Building America Industry Partner (Top 10 Builder)

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>System Cost/Performance Analysis, System Performance Maps and Field Studies</b>	<b>Validation of delivered system energy savings and non-energy* costs and benefits</b>
<b>Performance Feedback to Research Partners</b>	<b>Increased system reliability and performance Reduced system risks and costs</b>
<b>Knowledge Outreach: Technical support for codes and standards, development of supply chains, performance rating, and building science education</b>	<b>Accelerated market delivery of buildings as systems</b>



**Progress on Goals:** *The project is on track to produce validated energy systems that deliver 30% energy savings by 2015 and 50% energy savings by 2020.*



## Ducts in Conditioned Space:

Building America provided proven solutions for locating ducts in conditioned space that are being adopted by builders across the country.

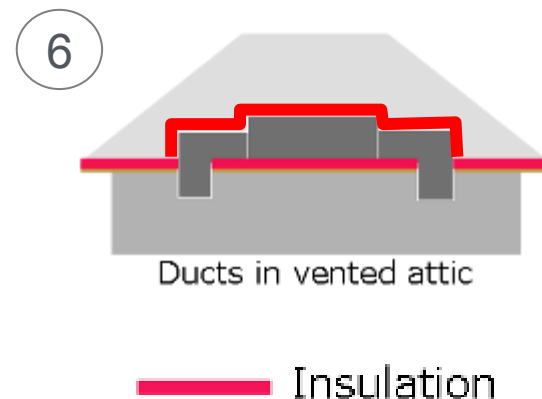
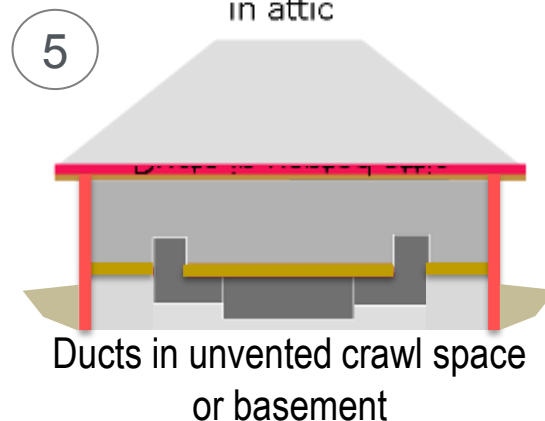
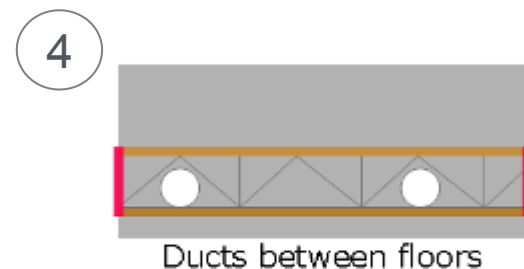
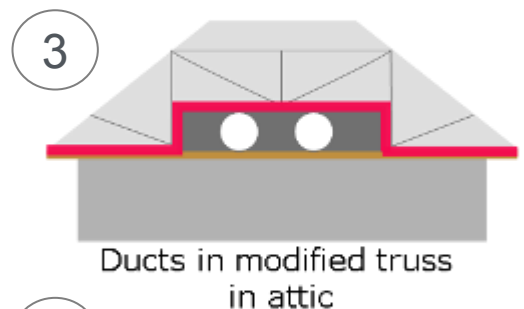
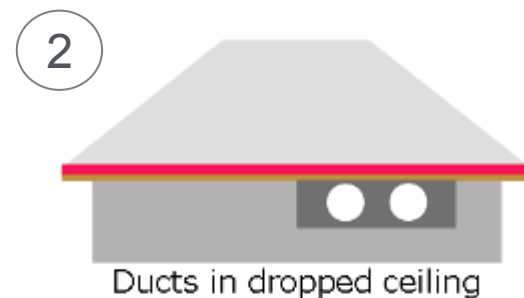
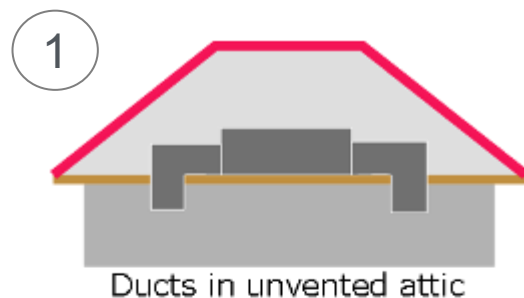


- ~8 – 15% savings on air conditioning bills
- 1,000's of homes

# Example: Duct System Innovation

## Ducts in Conditioned Space:

Building America developed and demonstrated 6 different cost-effective solutions for locating ducts inside conditioned space. All are being adopted by builders across the country.



# Example: Duct System Innovation



**Figure 20. Ductwork well-sealed to sheetrock with ccSPF**



**Figure 21. Rigid insulation inserted under ductwork to serve as a substrate and provide insulating value**



**Figure 22. Varying thickness of ccSPF and interference from cross bracing**



**Figure 23. Varying application thicknesses shown on rectangular (left) and round (right) ducts**

## Phased

## Deep Energy Retrofits:

Building America is currently investigating strategies for phased whole house retrofits to achieve deep energy savings (>50%).

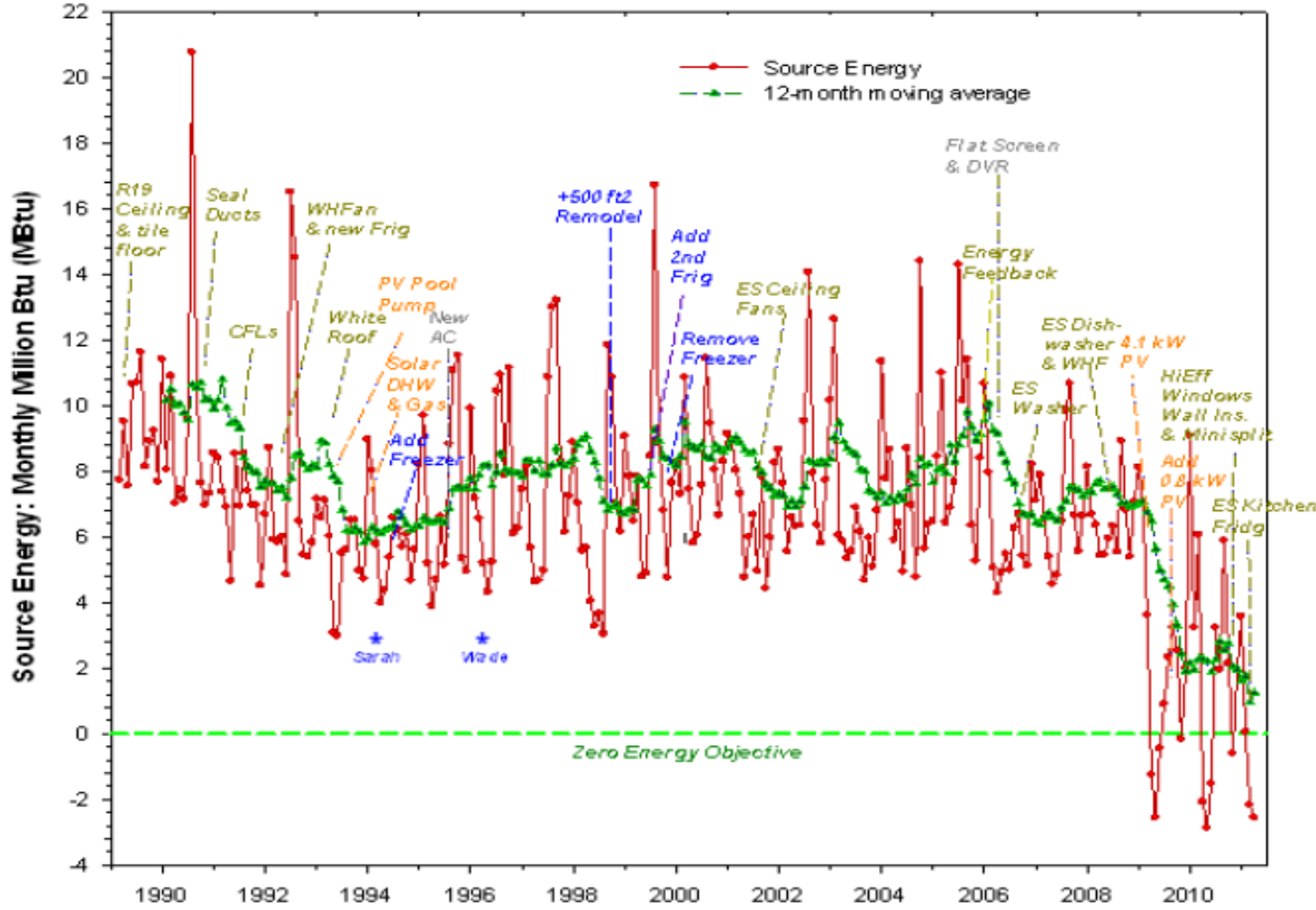


- Parker residence achieved “Net Positive” in 2012, through incremental cost effective retrofits



# Example: WH Retrofit System Innovation

**Source Energy & Retrofit History for Parker Family**  
Electricity and Natural Gas  
Cocoa Beach, 1989 - 2011



**Awards/Recognition:** Annual innovation awards were initiated in 2012 and 32 innovations were awarded. 10-20 additional innovation awards are expected each year.



[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/residential/ba\\_innovations.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/residential/ba_innovations.html)

# Collaborations, Tech Transfer, and Market Impact



## Partners, Subcontractors, and Collaborators:



### Industry Research Teams

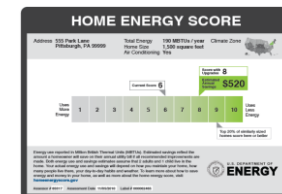


+

National Labs: NREL, PNNL, ORNL, PNNL

## Deployment Program Partnerships:

- DOE Challenge Home & Energy Star:  
All new construction projects
- Home Performance w/Energy Star: 13  
Projects (BSC, FSEC, IBACOS,  
NAHBRC, PARR)
- Better Buildings Neighborhood  
Partnership grantees: 3 projects (FSEC)
- Better Buildings Challenge: 6 projects  
(IBACOS)
- Home Energy Score Pilots: 5 projects  
(DEG, FSEC, IBACOS)
- Weatherization Assistance Program: 3  
projects (DEG, UMN)




**Technology Transfer, Deployment, Market Impact:** Building science knowledge is integrated into real world projects and the Building America Solution Center


ENVIRONMENTS FOR *Living*<sup>®</sup>

# BUILDING SCIENCE.

IT'S ALL ABOUT BUILDING A BETTER, GREENER HOME.



California Public Utilities Commission



## Fact Sheet

### Energy Efficiency Zero Net Energy Program



#### What Is *SheaXero*?

SheaXero is a state-of-the-art package, available for a limited time at no extra cost, which combines a solar power system with energy-efficient features to eliminate your electric bill.

No bills. No gimmicks. No kidding.



## NET ZERO REVOLUTION

### GOODBYE UTILITY BILLS.

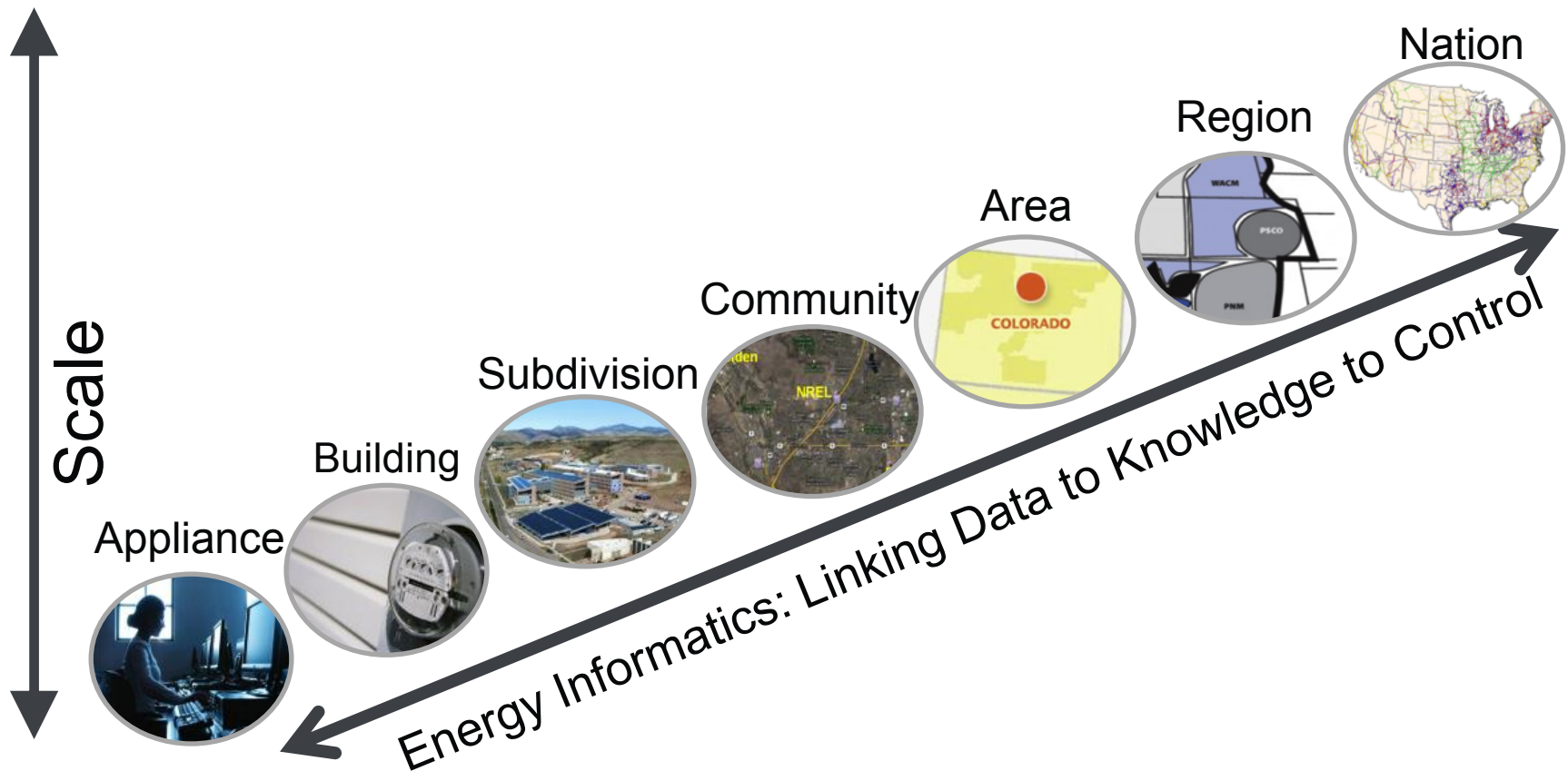
Our Net Zero homes provide some of the best perks to living in a beautiful Meritage home—improved energy savings, comfort and health. And, best of all, the possibility of never paying a utility bill again.



# Next Steps and Future Plans

## Next Steps and Future Plans:

- Future research will focus on developing the innovations required to deliver 50% savings and enable net zero energy ready homes at community-scale.
- A FOA will be issued by DOE in October, 2014 to select the industry research teams for 2015-2020.





# Next Steps and Future Plans

## Public Records and Census Data



Floor Area,  
Bedrooms,  
Foundation Type  
Year Built

## Monthly Bills High-Interval Meter Data



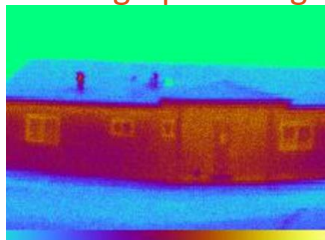
Data for Automated Calibration  
and/or Inverse Modeling

## Satellite Imagery



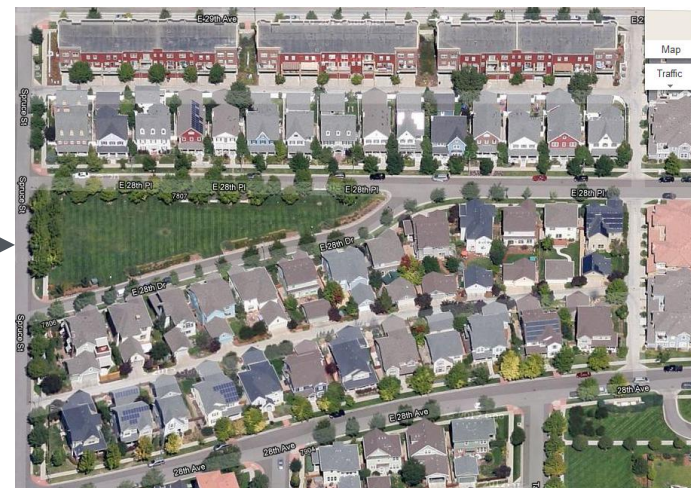
Footprint,  
Orientation  
& Shading

## Drive-By Infrared Thermographic Imagery



Thermal  
Properties &  
Geometry

Data-Driven,  
Physics-Based  
Simulation and  
Optimization  
Software



Community scale  
optimization

Community scale  
energy savings  
potential

Targeted deployment at  
scale