

RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

Data Collection

Network View Newsletter

News From the Field

New Solution Center Shares Proven Strategies for Energy Efficiency Programs

Market Position

Business Mode

Marketing &

Outreach

Financing

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proud to announce the launch of the Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center, which is a repository of

examples, lessons, and resources for residential energy efficiency programs. This free online resource draws on lessons learned from a \$500 million grant program, and includes virtual handbooks for

virtual handbooks for successfully planning, operating, promoting, and evaluating residential energy efficiency programs.

The handbooks offer strategies for helping program administrators and home performance professionals deliver energy upgrades to homeowners. Each handbook draws on the experiences of multiple programs and contains resources such as case studies, tools, calculators, reports, videos, and presentations. Users can find information on business models, program designs, marketing and

November 2014

In This Issue

- New Solution Center Shares
 Proven Strategies
- Register for Upcoming Peer Exchange Calls
- <u>Partnerships Toolkit</u>
 <u>Promotes Strategic</u>
 <u>Relationships</u>
- Comment on Draft Program
 Benchmarking Guide
- Nexus Energy Center Unveils Energy-Efficient Tiny Home
- New York Member
 Launches New Residential
 Program
- Local Governments and Nonprofits Join the Network
- Catch Up on the Latest News and Reports

outreach, financing, contractor engagement, workforce development, and evaluation and data collection.

To ensure the Solution Center remains a current repository for knowledge gained from ongoing program experience, DOE plans to continue updating content with key takeaways from Better Buildings Residential Network members, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Sponsors, and others. Users are invited to explore the Solution Center and forward additional materials for possible inclusion or feedback to improve the user experience.

Learn more by <u>registering</u> for a demonstration webinar on **Wednesday, November 19, 2014**, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern. DOE will showcase the Solution Center's content and functionality, including how its resources can help your residential energy efficiency program.

Residential Network Partnerships Toolkit Promotes Strategic Relationships

The Better Buildings Residential Network has developed a Partnerships Toolkit with resources to help energy efficiency organizations engage in partnerships that leverage resources and strengthen their programs. The toolkit was developed as the first Residential Network Voluntary Initiative, which provides a forum for members to join together to address a common need or opportunity for energy efficiency programs. The toolkit includes templates, tools, guides, and examples to help you create and maintain successful partnerships.

Thank you to the Residential Network



Upcoming Peer Exchange Calls*

Residential Network members are invited to participate in these topical calls that are more discussion than webinar and serve as a forum to ask questions and bounce ideas off peers. Members can access Peer Exchange Call registration links and past call summaries through announcement emails sent to Residential Network members or via the Residential Network Group on the Home Energy Pros website. Sign in to access the Residential Network Group. Non-members wishing to gain access to these valuable resources and many others are invited to join the Better Buildings Residential Network Group to participate in the online community on Home Energy Pros. To receive emails about upcoming calls, email bbresidentialnetwork@ ee.doe.gov.

December 11

member volunteers who helped made this toolkit possible by providing resources, feedback, and review:

- Nell Boyle (<u>City of</u> <u>Roanoke, Virginia</u>)
- Shirley Cyr (<u>Clean</u> <u>Energy Works</u>)
- Rachel DiFranco (<u>City</u>
 <u>of Fremont</u>,
 <u>California</u>)
- Zaheen Hussain and Nicole Miller (GTECH Strategies)
- Rob Jones (Efficiency First Kansas City)
- Jim Mikel (Spirit Foundation)
- Shane Monday (Hub Energy Group)
- Kevin Schleith (Building Sustainable Solutions, LLC)

Better

Buildings Voluntary Initiative: Partnerships Toolkit

Residential every efficiency programs are delivered by many offerent figure of organizations and partners, including utilities, solds and soul powerments, non-posit organizations, and thir posit companies. List or makes which solvant adheres the program, the resed to work in partnership with offerent anothers can make or hinde programs sources.

Partnerships are instruments in themselves or more justice that specify part optice and incommissions. The partnerships are instruments of the partnerships are instrumentally as a specific partnership as a partnership as a specific partnership as a specific partnership as a partnership

In order 62 actives account, garbans with the same interests, just logality, marked at soft is existent added, communities that the property of the same interests of the communities that the same interests of the communities that the same interests of the communities of the communities who communities that the communities of the communities who communities and the communities of the communities added to the communities and communities of the communities added to the communities and communities of the communities of the communities added to the communities and the communities are communities and the communities and the communities are communities and the communities and the communities and the communities are communities are communities and the communities are communities are communities are communities and the communities are communities are communities are communities and the communities are communities are communities are communities are communities are communities are

flation are a range of such to undercond what constitutes a partnership, existing the reset for partnerships, steaming postures partnerships, such partnerships, consultations, constitute them, and communicant their success. Purcharding such are described below stong with guidance concerning their use. The stone on still below as a sollentiant or with a list for sales of inference.

Self_assemblerd_air/fubied_brought_Celemene capabilities and needs, which can drive portners/ops_loss accordum.
 Distatisticht_topicios_broughts_Analyse and priorities potential portners. See jebberdum.

Detrocks (folia) Top Ger p. 30) http://www.scent.to.co/fe-partnership.topks
 Detroits perfective proposit resting but appeals free extension.

Learn more at herberburkings energy portions

Partnerships are resented to any number of different activities

BETTER BUILDINGS RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

ENERGY

• Erick Shambarger (Milwaukee Energy Efficiency)

Start using the Partnerships Toolkit today, and look for new opportunities to get involved in upcoming Residential Network Voluntary Initiatives.

Comment on Draft Program Benchmarking Guide and Attend an Upcoming Webinar

DOE has been developing a <u>Guide for Benchmarking Residential</u> <u>Energy Efficiency Program Progress</u> to make benchmarking more common among residential energy efficiency programs. Work on the guide started more than a year ago with input from Residential Network members and Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

Program Sustainability: Update on Revenue Strategies

12:30–2:00 PM EST Register now

Combining Solar and Home Performance Services**

3:00-4:30 PM EST

Register now

**Note: This call is open to nonmembers of the Residential Network.

Residential Network Peer Exchange Calls will be taking a winter break, but <u>stay tuned</u> for the 2015 call schedule.

Find the Latest Peer Exchange Call Summaries*

Residential Network members can now <u>review summaries</u> from the following calls:

- October 9, 2014:
 Incorporating Energy
 Efficiency into Disaster
 Recovery Efforts
- October 9, 2014: Making
 Evaluations Work for Your
 Program: Tips for Success
- September 25, 2014:
 Outreach to Faith-Based
 Organizations
- September 25, 2014:

Sponsors. The guide is intended to help residential program managers perform the following:

- · Identify metrics that measure their goals.
- Develop a program benchmarking plan to identify their program's strengths and weaknesses.
- Measure progress for years to come by establishing a baseline of performance.
- · Gain insights from peer comparisons.
- · Communicate success with key stakeholders.

To learn more about the guide, <u>register for a webinar</u> that will take place on Wednesday, December 3, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern.

Residential Network members are also invited to <u>review the draft</u> <u>guide</u> and submit comments to <u>Dale Hoffmeyer</u> by December 31, 2014.

Nexus Energy Center Unveils Energy-Efficient Tiny Home

Better Buildings Residential Network member Nexus Energy Center recently unveiled its first tiny, energy-efficient home. As reported in the July-August issue of the Network View, the nonprofit organization aimed to raise \$5,000 online to build the TRES (Tiny, Renewable, and Environmentally Sustainable) Project in Huntsville, Alabama. Built



Nexus Energy Center's Chad Wright shows off the tiny home's insulation. (Photo: Lucy Berry)

with all the amenities you would expect in a traditional home, the 250-square-foot structure will be used to educate contractors, businesses.

Strategies to Overcome
Split-Incentive
Tenant/Landlord Issues

Related Events

DOE's Better Buildings
Residential Program Solution
Center Webinar
November 19, 2014
3:00–4:00 PM EST

DOE's Overview of a Draft Guide for Benchmarking Residential Program Progress Webinar

December 3, 2014 2:30-3:00 PM EST

2014 Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference December 7–10, 2014 Washington, DC

Energy Center of Wisconsin's Better Buildings: Better Business Illinois Conference February 26–27, 2015 Rosemont, IL

Energy Center of Wisconsin's
Better Buildings: Better
Business Wisconsin
Conference
March 11–13, 2015
Wisconsin Dells, IL

DOE's Better Buildings Summit May 27–29, 2015 Washington, DC and students about residential energy efficiency in smaller places.

Featuring energy-saving materials and equipment, the tiny house is designed to inspire more Alabamians to think about upgrading their homes. The TRES Project has spray-foam insulation, ENERGY STAR qualified windows, and light-emitting diode (LED) lights. Solar panels will eventually be installed as well. Nexus is working with a host of volunteers and sponsors to add an on-demand propane water heater, gas stove, and hybrid solar electric heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system.

Learn more about Nexus Energy Center's TRES Project.

Program Design and Customer Experience Solutions

New York Member Launches New Program for Staten Island Homeowners

Staten Island, New York, homeowners hit with high utility bills last winter can now save money by taking advantage of a new program. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), a Better Buildings Residential Network member, launched a new program offering homeowners in the borough a free, one-on-one consultation with an energy expert. With only 205 of the island's 104,299 single-family homes having undergone a home energy assessment, NYSERDA hopes the promotion helps tip the scale among Staten Island homeowners toward energy upgrades.

In addition to working with the program's full-time dedicated energy expert, participants receive:

- Comprehensive home energy assessments to identify areas where the home is losing energy and driving up energy costs
- Plans for energy-saving improvements

Partnerships Toolkit Enhances Collection of Resources

Join the conversation on Home Energy Pros, where we are discussing the Partnerships Toolkit, one of the many resources available on the Tools page of the Residential Network Group.

Scare Up Energy Savings This Winter



Halloween might be over, but high energy bills are always scary. Use DOE's infographic to remind consumers how they can ward off energy waste this winter with simple tricks for a real treat—saving energy and money all year long.

Quotable

"The <u>Partnerships Toolkit</u> has not just been useful for identifying potential partnerships. I have used it to

- Assessment reports with estimated costs for proposed energy upgrades and estimated annual energy savings for each proposed measure
- A quick checkup to assure that minimum health and safety requirements are met in the home
- Installation of several free, low-cost energy saving measures

"I got new appliances approved through the program and new storm and front doors because the old ones weren't energy efficient. I also got a new exhaust fan in one of my bathrooms. With all this in, I can already see the difference," said program participant Alana Gaymon.

Learn more about NYSERDA's new program.

map out a business model and strategy—including mission, goal, program offerings, and audience—based on what partners can contribute to my work and what I can contribute to theirs. I've referred to the toolkit over and over. It has prompted many ideas to improve my business that I wouldn't have had without it."

Kevin Schleith of Building
 Sustainable Solutions, LLC, a
 Better Buildings Residential
 Network member

Meet the Members

Local Governments and Nonprofits Join the Residential Network

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

- The role of the <u>Monroe County Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission</u> in Indiana is to educate and engage with residents to create a healthier and more economically viable future. The Commission's Energy Working Group implements energy conservation initiatives in alignment with the county's Energy Plan.
- The <u>Arlington County, Virginia, Government</u> is a community partner within the Better Buildings Challenge and has set a goal to reduce energy intensity 20% by 2020. The county is served by the Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The <u>City of Charlottesville</u>, <u>Virginia</u>, encourages residential energy efficiency through its Energy Efficient Building Tax

*Accessing Home Energy Pros

Non-Members of the Residential Network:

The Better Buildings
Residential Network Group on
Home Energy Pros is open
exclusively to Residential
Network members. To join the
Residential Network, complete
a membership form.

Residential Network Members:

Residential Network members that are already Home Energy Pros Group members must sign in to view the associated links in this newsletter.

Members who have not yet signed up and seek access to these valuable resources are

Credit for residents whose homes have been <u>certified</u> by fellow Residential Network member LEAP.

- Energy Conservation Works is a nonprofit organization based in Jackson, Wyoming, that provides leadership, implementation, and education specific to energy conservation and sustainability.
- The <u>City of Bellevue</u>, <u>Washington</u>, received an ENERGY STAR
 Award for improvements made at its city hall building in 2008.
 Since then, the city has undertaken energy-efficient lighting projects, partnered on residential energy improvement programs, and launched Web-based tools for engaging and educating residents.

Connect your organization with these programs. Sign up to become a Residential Network member by completing a membership form.

invited to join the Better
Buildings Residential Network
Group to participate in the
online community on Home
Energy Pros. It's an easy, twostep process—<u>sign up</u> for
Home Energy Pros, and then
after receiving your
confirmation email, request to
join the Residential Network
Group.

Resource Corner

Catch Up on the Latest News and Reports

- "LEAP Joins Governor as Virginia Energy Plan Officially Unveiled" shares LEAP Executive Director Cynthia Adams' remarks at an event where Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe unveiled his Virginia Energy Plan (LEAP, October 2014).
- The 2014 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard uses data vetted by state energy officials to rank U.S. states in six categories—utility programs, transportation, building energy codes, combined heat and power, state initiatives, and appliance standards—to measure the progress of state policies and programs that save energy (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy [ACEEE], October 2014).

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 <u>Better Buildings Residential Network Support</u>.

Do you have something you would like to share with other members through the *Better Buildings Network View?* Send an email to <u>Better Buildings Residential Network Support</u> to submit your idea.

You are receiving this email from DOE's Better Buildings Residential Network. If you would like to unsubscribe, please contact <u>Better</u> Buildings Residential Network Support.

U.S. Department of Energy

1000 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20585

betterbuildings.energy.gov/bbrn