



RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

Network View Newsletter

News From the Field

Nearly 50 Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Sponsors Join the Residential Network

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) [Home Performance with ENERGY STAR](#) (HPwES) program

announced this month that

its 49 Sponsors will be considered members of the Better Buildings Residential Network and begin to receive Network membership benefits. The goal of Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is to help homeowners improve the efficiency and comfort of their homes using a comprehensive, whole-house approach. Sponsors oversee local program implementation, including managing the performance of participating contractors to ensure that quality standards are met. HPwES Sponsors participation will significantly expand the breadth of member engagement, peer-sharing opportunities, and program experiences of the Residential Network.



DOE works in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support local HPwES Sponsors in promoting residential energy upgrades. In 2014, 93,220 home energy upgrade projects were completed by HPwES sponsors.

Learn more about the resources HPwES Sponsors and other members receive through [Residential Network membership](#).

May 2015

In This Issue

- [Network Welcomes Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Sponsors](#)
- [Register for Upcoming Peer Exchange Calls](#)
- [Measure Residential Network Success](#)
- [DOE Requests Information on Data Collection Techniques](#)
- [Download the New Benchmarking Guide](#)
- [Energy Prize Participants Get Social](#)
- [New Members Broaden the Network](#)
- [Heat Up Your Summer Reading List](#)

**JOIN THE
RESIDENTIAL
NETWORK »**

Measure Residential Network Success and Shape Future Resources

Better Buildings Residential Network members gain access to numerous benefits and recognition opportunities by sharing their programs' annual number of home energy upgrades and the benefits associated with those upgrades. Members reported completing more than 27,500 home energy upgrades as part of the 2014 reporting cycle, and their success stories have since informed numerous Peer Exchange Call topics, voluntary initiative toolkits, case studies, and other resources.



The deadline for reporting upgrades and their associated benefits for Fiscal Year 2014 (i.e., October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014) to DOE is **Friday, May 29, 2015**. Residential Network members that have not yet reported this year can simply complete the [Residential Network Reporting and Benefits Template](#) and submit it to [Residential Network Support](#). Please note that reporting is not required from HPwES Sponsors, Georgetown University Energy Prize participants, Home Energy Affordability Loan program partners, nor Residential Network members that joined on or after April 30, 2015.

[Learn more](#) about how to submit your Residential Network reporting and benefits template.

DOE Requests Information on Data Collection Techniques

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE's) [Cities Leading Through Energy Analysis and Planning](#) (Cities-LEAP) released a request for information (RFI) to aid their mission of integrating energy analysis and data into cities' strategic decision

Peer Exchange Calls*

Residential Network members 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. 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 Home Energy Pros. [Sign in](#) to access the Residential Network Group. Non-members wishing to gain access to these and many other valuable resources 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.

May 28

No calls—join us at the [Better Buildings Summit!](#)

June 11

Shark Tank: Residential Energy Efficiency Edition

12:30–2:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

Leveraging Seasonal Opportunities for Marketing

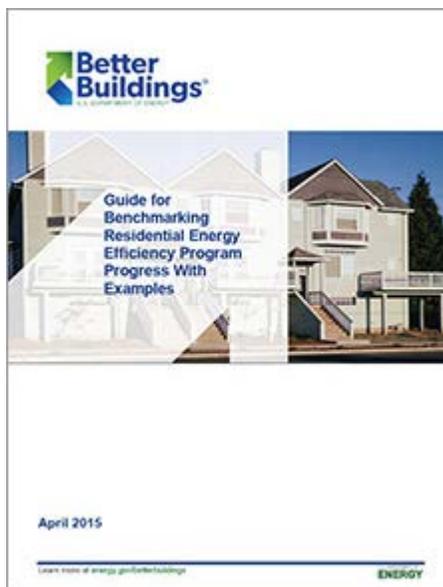
making. If your program gathers energy and non-energy-related statistical information for cities, counties, and towns, consider responding to this RFI. EERE is especially looking for information such as data collection techniques and energy planning documentation, or successes and challenges experienced when implementing a data-driven, decision-making framework. Submit a response by Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern so your efforts can help lead to a better understanding of how cities and organizations use data in energy-related decisions. [Get more information and submit a response.](#)

Evaluation and Data Collection Solutions

Enhance Energy Efficiency Programs With New Benchmarking Guide

Program benchmarking provides valuable information that can lead to better program design and delivery decisions. The DOE Better Buildings Residential program's new [Guide for Benchmarking Residential Energy Efficiency Program Progress With Examples](#) can help you continually assess your program's performance to effectively engage customers and achieve energy savings.

The guide provides an



Energy Efficiency

3:00–4:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

June 25

Creative Financing Approaches for Residential Energy Efficiency Programs

12:30–2:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

Strengthening the Frontlines: Sales Training and Continuing Education for Contractors

3:00–4:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

July 9

Social Media Messages That Matter: Top Tips and Tools

12:30–2:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

The Dog Days of Summer: Capitalizing on the Pet Market

3:00–4:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

Find the Latest Peer Exchange Call Summaries*

Residential Network members can now [review summaries](#) from the following calls:

- April 23, 2015: [Community Organizing and Outreach](#)

inventory of recommended residential program progress metrics; describes approaches for using them effectively; and gives examples of peer benchmarks from the \$500 million Better Buildings Neighborhood Program for comparison. In addition, the guide lays out a step-by-step action plan for developing an internal benchmarking process for your residential program:

1. Use program goals to guide benchmark planning.
2. Identify potential metrics that measure your goals.
3. Determine how you will collect information.
4. Assess the level of effort and finalize metrics.
5. Put the process in place to get started.
6. Share results effectively.
7. Consider benchmarking against peer programs.

[Download](#) the guide and learn more evaluation and data collection tips in the [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#).

Eyes on the Energy Prize

Energy Prize Participants Get Social (Media) in the Quest for \$5 Million

Georgetown University Energy Prize (GUEP) participants are going digital to encourage people across the United States to save energy and win their community the competition's coveted \$5 million prize. From Twitter to YouTube, see how these GUEP competitors are engaging their social networks to encourage energy savings:



- This [amusing video](#) from the City of Columbia, Missouri, takes

- April 23, 2015: [Lessons From State Energy Efficiency Alliances](#)
- April 9, 2015: [Residential Energy Efficiency Messaging](#)
- April 9, 2015: [The Future Is Here: Smart Home Technology](#)
- March 26, 2015: [Voluntary Initiative on Incentives: Toolkit Training Webinar](#)
- March 26, 2015: [Fostering Behavior Change in the Energy Efficiency Market](#)

Related Events

[DOE's Better Buildings Summit](#)

May 27–29, 2015
Washington, DC

[ACEEE Energy Efficiency Finance Forum](#)

May 31–June 2, 2015
San Francisco, CA

[Consortium for Energy Efficiency \(CEE\) Summer Program Meeting](#)

June 2–3, 2015
Minneapolis, MN

[DOE's Better Buildings "Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals" Webinar](#)

June 17, 2015
3:00–4:00 PM EDT

hashtags to a whole new level to remind viewers about the many ways they can reduce their energy use.

- City of Takoma Park, Maryland, City Councilmember Kate Stewart welcomed a local television station to film her home's [blower door test](#), and Councilmember Tim Male followed suit with an [energy assessment](#) of his home.
- The City of Walla Walla, Washington, used Twitter to [announce](#) an Energy Prize slogan and logo design [contest](#) with a \$100 prize for the winning resident.
- In Indiana, the Monroe County Energy Challenge took both a [humorous](#) and [educational](#) take on saving energy with infographics on Twitter.

Follow GUEP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay up to date with the latest posts from participants.

Meet the Members

Program Administrators, Consultants, and Nonprofits Broaden the Network

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

- [Honeywell International, Inc.](#), invents and manufactures technologies, many of which deliver energy efficiency benefits across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.
- [Energize New York](#) serves homeowners within the Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium by providing families with direct support to make better energy efficiency choices.



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

August 4–6, 2015
Buffalo, NY

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

Home Energy Pros Spotlight*

[Join the conversation](#) on Home Energy Pros, where members are discussing the program progress metrics they find most valuable in conjunction with the release of the *Guide for Benchmarking Residential Energy Efficiency Program Progress With Examples*.

Social Media Spotlight

Follow @BetterBldgsDOE for Twitter for the latest Residential Network news, such as how the Designing Incentives Toolkit can help [incentivize home energy upgrades](#). Tweet how your organization has used the toolkit using the hashtag #BBResNet.

Quotable

“We want to create an atmosphere and stimulate a

- [Collaborative Project Consulting](#) offers sustainability services for multifamily projects and peer reviews other residential projects for energy efficiency standards.
- [Home Energy Analytics, Inc.](#), helps households lower their energy use and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through Web-based customer engagement software.
- [John J. Gilchrist Architect PC](#) is a New Jersey-based architectural firm specializing in both residential and non-residential projects, new construction, and renovation.

Connect your organization with these programs and learn more from them. Sign up to become a Residential Network member by completing a [membership form](#).

Resource Corner

Heat Up Your Summer Reading List

From home energy upgrade data to smart meter insights, heat up your summer reading list with these recent reports and policy briefs.

- [Analysis of Installed Measures and Energy Savings for Single-Family Residential Better Buildings Projects](#) provides data for residential single-family projects reported by 37 organizations awarded federal financial assistance by DOE's Better Buildings Neighborhood Program (National Renewable Energy Laboratory, April 2015)
- [Insights From Smart Meters: Ramp-Up, Dependability, and Short-Term Persistence of Savings From Home Energy Reports \(HERs\)](#) presents lessons learned from using smart meter data to help utilities and residential energy efficiency program administrators improve HER cost-effectiveness by more accurately predicting program benefits and optimizing report frequency (State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network, April 2015).

conversation around energy efficiency.”

– Dr. Francis Slakey, the brainchild behind Georgetown University Energy Prize, as quoted in [Forbes magazine](#)

*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 invited to join the Better Buildings Residential Network Group to participate in the online community on Home Energy Pros. It's an easy, two-step process—[sign up](#) for Home Energy Pros, and then after receiving your confirmation email, request to join the Residential Network Group.

- [“State Energy Efficiency Resource Standard \(EERS\) Activity”](#) policy brief provides summaries of existing state electric and natural gas EERS policies, including reference legislation and orders (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy [ACEEE], April 2015).

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 [Better Buildings Residential Network Support](#).

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.

You are receiving this email from DOE's Better Buildings Residential Network. If you would like to unsubscribe, please contact [Better Buildings Residential Network Support](#).

U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

betterbuildings.energy.gov/bbrn