



RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

Network View Newsletter

News From the Field

First-Ever Network Member Gathering Held at 2015 Better Buildings Summit

More than 800 participants met at the 2015 Better Buildings Summit in Washington, D.C., to engage in dialogue focused on sharing proven approaches for greater energy efficiency in buildings. This year was the first to incorporate the residential sector with [targeted sessions](#) for energy efficiency program administrators and partners.

Speakers included leaders from Better Buildings Residential Network member organizations, including [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy](#) (ACEEE), [Clean Energy Works](#), [Community Home Energy Retrofit](#)



Residential Network members and GUEP participants joined a networking session to discuss their progress and plans for the coming year.



Speakers leading the session “Engaging the Homeowner to Learn About Energy Efficiency” listen as the audience shares their best and worst marketing experiences during a lightning round.

June 2015

In This Issue

- [First Member Gathering at the Better Buildings Summit](#)
- [New Residential Better Buildings Accelerators](#)
- [Register for Upcoming Peer Exchange Calls](#)
- [EPA Community Climate and Energy Resources](#)
- [Better Buildings Neighborhood Program Final Evaluation](#)
- [Meet the Newest Network Members](#)
- [Build Up Your Summer Reading List](#)

**JOIN THE
RESIDENTIAL
NETWORK »**

Peer Exchange Calls*

Residential Network members are invited to take part in these

[Project](#), [Efficiency Maine](#),
[Elevate Energy](#), [Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance](#), [green|spaces](#), [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority](#) (NYSERDA), [Vermont Energy Investment Corporation](#) (VEIC), and [Michigan Saves](#).

Better Buildings Residential Network Members and Georgetown University Energy Prize (GUEP) participants gathered for a networking session where they shared challenges, strategies for success, and suggestions to maximize the impact of achieving energy goals within their respective communities.

Cross-cutting sessions that addressed topics of interest to residential, as well as commercial, sectors were the theme on the second day of the summit concerning topics such as leveraging the real estate industry, delivering successful financing methods, new opportunities for smart buildings or intelligent efficiency, and engaging homeowners.

New DOE Residential Energy Efficiency Accelerators Launched

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) launched two new single-family residential Better Buildings Accelerators that will help advance use of energy efficiency information in real estate transactions, and also common data standards to streamline data exchange by energy efficiency programs and partners across the country.

Through the [Home Energy Information Accelerator](#), national organizations, federal agencies, and regional, state, and local leaders in real estate and energy efficiency will expand the availability and use of reliable home energy information at relevant points in residential real estate transactions. Residential Network members are among the more than 25 partners:

- [Clean Energy Works](#)
- [District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility](#)



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.

June 25

Creative Financing Approaches for Residential Energy Efficiency Programs
12:30–2:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

Strengthening the Front Lines: 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

- [Elevate Energy](#)
- [Institute for Market Transformation](#)
- [National Association of State Energy Officials](#)
- [Vermont Energy Investment Corporation](#)

The second accelerator—[Home Upgrade Program Accelerator](#)—supports residential efficiency programs managed by utilities, and state and local governments, and nonprofit organizations as they provide upgrade services to more homes across the country. These programs currently complete hundreds of thousands of home upgrades annually with an average savings of 20 percent for participating households. Residential Network members are among the participating partners:

- [Build It Green](#)
- [Building Performance Institute, Inc.](#)
- [Clean Energy Works](#)
- [NYSERDA](#)

[Learn more](#) about the new Better Buildings Accelerators.

New EPA Climate and Energy Resources to Engage Communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released three new resources to provide concrete steps for communities to follow when building or growing a climate and energy program.

- [Local Climate Action Framework: A Step-by-Step Implementation Guide](#) provides step-by-step guidance and resources for local governments to plan, implement, and evaluate climate, energy, and sustainability projects and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.

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:

- May 14, 2015: [Generating Demand for Multifamily Building Upgrades](#)
- May 14, 2015: [Better Buildings Residential Network Orientation](#)

Related Events

[DOE's "Evaluation of the Better Buildings Neighborhood Program" Webinar](#)
June 24, 2015
2:00–3:30 PM EDT

[HPwES "Findings From the 2014 HPwES Annual Report" Webinar](#)
June 29, 2015

- [Effective Practices for Implementing Local Climate and Energy Programs Tip Sheets](#) compiles a series of 19 tip sheets that cover a wide range of topics, including effective marketing and communications, working with specific types of stakeholders, and more.
- [Local Climate and Energy Program Model Design Guide](#) gives guidance for creating or transitioning to program designs that are viable over the long term and replicable in other communities.

Visit the EPA State and Local Climate and Energy Program [website](#) to learn more and download the materials.

Data and Evaluation Solutions

Learn the Results of the \$500 Million Better Buildings Neighborhood Program in a Final Evaluation Webinar

Join us for a [webinar](#) on **Wednesday, June 24, 2015**, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm Eastern to learn about the full impacts, lessons, and market effects of DOE's \$500 million grant program, the Better Buildings



Neighborhood Program. From 2010 to 2013, more than 40 competitively selected state and local governments developed sustainable programs to upgrade the energy efficiency of more than 100,000 homes and buildings. These leading communities used innovation and investment in energy efficiency to expand the building improvement industry, test program delivery business models, and train home performance professionals.

This new, independent evaluation report assesses the program's direct impacts, gross energy savings, goals, and lessons learned,

2:00–3:30 PM EDT

[2015 North Carolina Building Performance Conference](#)
September 1–3, 2015
Wilmington, NC

[2015 ACI Mid-Atlantic Regional Home Performance Conference](#)
October 20–21, 2015
Cherry Hill, NJ

[2015 Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance \(SEEA\) and Association of Energy Services Professionals \(AESP\) Southeast Conference](#)
October 28–30, 2015
Atlanta, GA

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 a recent Washington Post article, "How to Get the Real Estate Market to Properly Value Green Homes," sharing how DOE's new Better Buildings Accelerators will help residential energy efficiency become more valued in the real estate market.

documented in seven volumes. Results indicate that the Better Buildings Neighborhood Program:

- Spurred nearly \$2.1 billion in economic activity
- Created more than 10,100 full-time equivalent jobs
- Generated more than \$200 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues
- Identified, using statistical analysis, four factors that drive program success and eight factors associated with greater success

Learn more about the report's findings and key takeaways for energy efficiency programs by [registering](#) for the June 24 webinar.

Meet the Members

New Members Nationwide Build Network's Success

The Residential Network is pleased to welcome its newest members:

- [Homesol Building Solutions, Inc.](#) is a LEED-certified, residential and commercial energy consulting firm based in Ontario, Canada, that specializes in energy modeling and upgrades; cost-effective building assemblies and product specifications; and home energy



Membership Surpasses 200

With last month's announcement that 49 Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HPwES) Sponsors would begin to receive Residential Network membership benefits, the total

Social Media Spotlight

Follow the hashtag [#BBSummit2015](#) to explore energy efficiency examples and tips shared by participants during last month's Better Buildings Summit Twitter Town Hall.

Quotable

"This was super helpful to hear how others are facing these challenges. Thank you."

– Evaluation form comment from the joint Better Buildings Residential Network—Georgetown University Energy Prize Meet-Up at the Better Buildings Summit

*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

assessments and design summaries.

- [Research Into Action, Inc.](#) is a program evaluation and market research firm that utilizes social and behavioral techniques and evaluation procedures to help a variety of clients create, implement, and analyze energy products that fit consumers' needs.
- [Horizon Residential Energy Services NH, LLC](#) promotes comprehensive building performance by providing guidance and advice to existing homeowners in the greater New Hampshire area to ensure that practical and cost-effective methods are used when improving home energy performance.
- [Linda M. Wigington & Associates](#) supports the 1000 Home Challenge, a nationwide initiative aiming to reduce annual residential site energy consumption by 70% through a combination of energy efficiency, renewable resources, community-based solutions, and behavioral choices.
- [OmStout Consulting](#) is an energy consulting firm based in Vermont that seeks to scale sustainable market approaches to improving energy efficiency in homes by working with industry leaders and subject matter experts.

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

number of Residential Network members surpassed 200! Learn more about our [members](#) and [how to join](#).

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.

Resource Corner

Bounty of Blogs, Reports, and More Build Up Your Summer Reading List

From benchmarking best practices to ranking cities' energy efficiency efforts, new reports, blogs, and case studies are sure to build up your

summer reading list.

- [Benchmarking and Transparency Policy and Program Impact Evaluation Handbook](#) provides a simple “how-to” guide to local organizations across the United States that wish to assess the impacts of their energy and non-energy benchmarking and transparency policies (DOE, May 2015).
- [Community-Scale Attic Retrofit and Home Energy Upgrade Data Mining](#) discusses a program in Davis, California, which used a neighborhood-focused strategy for implementation and a low-cost retrofit to incentivize upgraded attic insulation and duct sealing throughout the community (DOE’s Building America, May 2015).
- [Greenbelt Homes Pilot Program: Summary of Building Envelope Retrofits, Planned HVAC Equipment Upgrades, and Energy Savings](#) showcases Phase 2 of a 1,566-home cooperative energy efficiency program in Greenbelt, Maryland, and analyzes interior insulation options for potential interior upgrades (DOE’s Building America, May 2015).
- “[Home Performance Coalition Joins Home Energy Information Accelerator](#)” announced the organization’s plans to join DOE’s latest efforts to increase investment in home energy efficiency improvement projects across the country (*Home Energy* magazine blog, May 2015).
- “[How Energy Efficiency Financing Can Help States Meet Clean Power Plan Goals](#)” explores how EPA’s final rule for regulating greenhouse gases from existing power plants creates demand for energy efficiency financing products and highlights localities’ critical role in state compliance planning (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy [ACEEE], May 2015).
- “[Insulated Siding Retrofit in a Cold Climate](#)” examines the pre- and post-installation energy performance of insulated siding in New Paltz, New York, and discusses its positive and negative aspects compared to other siding types (DOE’s Building America, May 2015).
- [The 2015 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#) measures the progress of 51 U.S. city policies and programs that save energy while benefiting the environment and promoting economic

growth. The report also shares examples of best practices for energy and water utilities (ACEEE, May 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