New Groundbreaking DOE Report—*Home Rx*: The Health Benefits of Home Performance

A home is intimately tied to the health and wellbeing of its residents, and Americans spend some 70% of their time at home. Evidence in a new, groundbreaking U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) report, *Home Rx: The Health Benefits of Home Performance*, shows that home performance upgrades can improve the quality of a home's indoor environment by reducing the prevalence of harmful indoor air pollutants and contaminants. Until recently, however, no systematic review of this evidence had been conducted, limiting full understanding of the link between home performance and health.

This paper is just one part of DOE’s broader Health and Home Performance Initiative, which plans to engage stakeholders and develop a roadmap to facilitate the industry’s incorporation of health benefits into its work. Roadmap workshops are slated for the following conferences: the Home Performance Coalition (HPC) 2017 *Northwest Regional Home Performance Conference* in January; HPC 2017 *National Home Performance Conference* in March; and the Better Buildings Summit in May. To learn more about the Health and Home Performance Initiative, and to be involved in development of the roadmap, email homehealth@CSRA.com.

December 2016

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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:

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Hibernation Mode: What Smart Thermostats Can Do For You
New DOE Case Study: Improving Arizona Home Performance

A new case study by DOE’s Better Buildings Home Upgrade Program Accelerator, which works with partners to expand energy efficiency services to more homes while minimizing the costs of running home upgrade programs, profiles the success of Arizona Home Performance with ENERGY STAR.

Accelerator partners Arizona Public Service (APS), an electric utility, and FSL Home Energy Solutions, a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program Sponsor, identified two areas to improve program processes and minimize costs: contractor satisfaction and support; and quality of energy upgrades.

Read the case study for more information.

Inaugural Virginia Energy Efficiency Award Recognizes Network Member

The Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (VAEEC) honored a Better Buildings Residential Network member as one of the winners of the first-ever Virginia Energy Efficiency Awards. The awards showcase how energy efficiency champions across the state are helping homeowners, businesses, schools, and the government save money on energy costs while reducing energy use and stimulating the economy.

Residential Network member Richmond Region Energy Alliance received second place in the residential category, along with project partners Bain-Waring Home Energy Remodeling and RIC Design Build. The team improved the energy efficiency of an 840-square-foot row home while maintaining its original aesthetic. They used advanced framing and insulation techniques, thorough air sealing, efficient systems, and a 3-kilowatt solar array. After upgrades, the home is projected to achieve an 80% reduction in total energy consumption. Learn more about the project and other winners.

Keep PACE With Financing Trends: DOE

Q: How can residential energy efficiency programs build credibility and promote their offerings?
**Updates Guidelines**

Since 2009, more than 100,000 homeowners have made energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to their homes through residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs. DOE has updated its “Best Practice Guidelines for Residential PACE Financing Programs,” which aim to bring the benefits of PACE financing to more homeowners.

The guidelines can be used by PACE program administrators, contractors, and consumers to plan, develop, and implement programs and home energy upgrades. Revisions to the guidelines incorporate lessons learned from the experiences of state and local governments that have implemented PACE programs since 2010. Read the full guidelines.

**Make a House Call at HPC**


**Elevate Raises Reporting to New Heights**

Each year, the [Better Buildings Residential Network](https://www.betterbuildingsresidential.org) asks members to report the number of annual upgrades they complete, 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.

Thanks and congratulations to Residential Network member Elevate Energy for reporting the following in fiscal year 2015: 5,166 energy upgrades.
upgrades; total annual gas savings of 1,239,840 therms; and total annual electric savings of 3,357,900 kilowatt hours.

**Share Your Best Shot**

Do you have great photos of your organization’s events, activities, or an amazing residential upgrade? Email them to Better Buildings Residential Network Support to be featured in upcoming DOE social media posts, newsletters, and publications.

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**Meet the Members**

**Residential Network Keeps Growing in Diversity**

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

- [ABC Energy Savings, LLC](#) (Bow, NH)
- [California Housing Partnership Corporation](#)
- [Council of Multiple Listing Services](#) (Chicago, IL)
- [Energy Design Group Enterprises, LLC](#) (Fayetteville, AR)
- [Energy Performance Partners, LLC](#) (Toledo, OH)
- [Enervee](#) (Venice, CA)
- [LEDVANCE](#) (Wilmington, MA)
- [Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection](#) (MD)
- [North Slope Borough - Public Works Weatherization Program](#) (Barrow, AK)
- [Resynergy Systems](#) (Cambridge, MA)

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

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**Resource Corner**

**Warm up With New Resources**

- [Home RX: The Health Benefits of Home Performance](#) (DOE, December 2016)
- [Case Study: Improving Arizona Home Performance; Home Upgrade Program Accelerator](#) (DOE, December 2016)

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[Better Buildings LinkedIn](#). You can also check out the activities of fellow members. The City of Fort Collins, Colorado, reminded residents that it’s still in the running for the Georgetown University Energy Prize. [View the tweet](#).
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, and we can include it in a future issue of the Network View or share it on social media.

Share the View

Forward this email to colleagues or encourage them to sign up to receive each issue by selecting “Better Buildings Residential Network” when updating their DOE email subscription preferences.

Happy Holidays!

– The Better Buildings Residential Network

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

betterbuildings.energy.gov/bbrn