



# RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

## Network View Newsletter

### News From the Field

#### On Earth Day, Discover Solutions in More Than 100 Past Peer Exchange Calls

Mark Earth Day by going to a new [interactive archive](#) containing 108 Peer Exchange Call summaries dating as far back as 2011 that is now available for residential energy efficiency program research and application. Users can sort summaries by call topic, title, and date, as well as utilize a search field to further tailor results.

From contractor sales training tips to making energy efficiency program messaging successful and more, hundreds of solutions are available in the following topic areas:

- Market Position and Business Models
- Program Design and Customer Experience
- Evaluation and Data Collection
- Marketing and Outreach
- Financing
- Contractor Engagement and Workforce Development

#### Expand Your Solutions Search

Find even more proven practices in the [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#), an online collection of resources from grant programs and Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Sponsors.

April 2015

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#### 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

- General (e.g., energy efficiency and health services)

The call [summaries archive](#) will be updated on a regular basis, so be sure to monitor these resources often and [register](#) for upcoming Peer Exchange Calls to learn more.

## Motivate Homeowner Action With Updated DOE Incentives Database

Is customer motivation a barrier to marketing upgrades in your community? You can find ideas for incentives faster with DOE's [updated](#) Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE). In addition to pinpointing opportunities in a variety of formats (e.g., dynamic maps, charts, tables), the database includes a search tool that filters incentives and policies by type, state, technology, implementing sector, and eligible sector. DSIRE's latest improvements include:

- Expanded data accessibility with information on more than 2,800 active policies and incentives for all renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.
- An Application Program Interface freely available for download that contains all of the data on DSIRE in an easy-to-read format.
- Interactive maps users can customize in real-time based on their preferences and needs.
- Enhanced search capabilities that allow users to find incentives by zip code.

Visit the [DSIRE website](#) to find policies and incentives near you.



*The updated DSIRE tool helps homeowners find incentive programs that can reduce or defray installation or purchase costs of technologies such as photovoltaic systems. (Photo by Dennis Schroeder, National Renewable Energy Laboratory)*

announcement emails sent to Residential Network members or via the Residential Network Group on Home Energy Pros. To receive emails about upcoming calls, contact [Better Buildings Residential Network Support](#).

### April 23

#### Community Organizing and Outreach

12:30–2:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

#### Developing State Energy Efficiency Alliances

3:00–4:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

### May 14

#### Generating Demand for Multifamily Building Upgrades

12:30–2:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

#### Better Buildings Residential Network Orientation

3:00–4:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

### June 11

#### Shark Tank: Residential Energy Efficiency Edition

12:30–2:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

#### Leveraging Seasonal Opportunities for Marketing Energy Efficiency

3:00–4:30 PM EDT

## Missouri Launches New Home Energy Certification Initiative

Better Buildings Residential Network members in the “Show-Me” State can now show homeowners the benefits of energy savings more easily through the new [Missouri Home Energy Certification](#) (MHEC) program. The initiative, recently [announced](#) by Missouri Governor Jay

Nixon, intends to validate residential energy efficiency improvements to help Missouri homeowners save energy, as well as recapture the value of their investments to potential buyers when they sell their homes.

“Energy efficiency is a win-win for consumers and our economy,” Governor Nixon said. “This new certificate is the state’s seal of approval to those taking positive steps to reduce energy usage and invest in systems that will add value to their homes. This is another opportunity for Missourians to make a difference in our state’s energy future as well as create jobs in the energy solutions industry.”

Homes can earn Gold or Silver level certifications based on existing rating systems, such as DOE’s Home Energy Score, the Residential Energy Service Network’s Home Energy Rating System Index, and Columbia Water and Light’s Efficiency Score. Interested Missouri homeowners must work with an assessor who is currently certified by the Missouri Division of Energy.

Visit the [MHEC website](#) to learn more.



[Register now](#)

### Find the Latest Peer Exchange Call Summaries\*

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

- March 12, 2015:  
[Nothing But Networking Call for Residential Network Members](#)

### Related Events

[Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Partner Meeting](#)

May 4, 2015  
New Orleans, LA

[2015 ACI National Home Performance Conference and Trade Show](#)

May 4–7, 2015  
New Orleans, LA

[DOE's Better Buildings Summit](#)

May 27–29, 2015  
Washington, DC

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

August 4–6, 2015  
Buffalo, NY

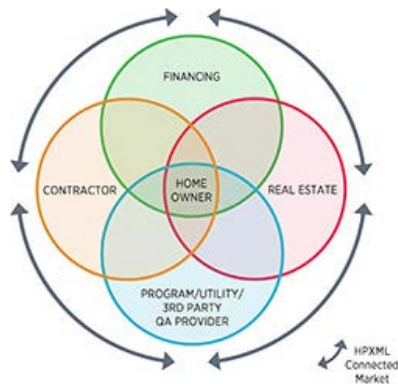
Have an event you want featured? Email the details to [Better Buildings Residential](#)

# Evaluation and Data Collection Solutions

## Home Performance XML Guide Connects the Dots on Effective Data Transfer

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR's new [HPXML Implementation Guide](#) helps energy efficiency program administrators and software developers overcome fragmented data exchange by integrating HPXML (home performance extensible markup language) into their operations and products. HPXML is a set of common definitions for the attributes of home systems based on Building Performance Institute data standards and the computing language that facilitates the quick and easy transfer of home-related data between different markets.

Without HPXML, home improvement contractors cannot easily exchange data with partnering businesses, energy efficiency programs, the real estate market, or the



### Better Buildings Summit Session: Overcoming the Home Energy Information Tower of Babel With HPXML

Wednesday, May 27,  
10:30 AM EDT

In a high-tech world, home energy information operates in a Tower of Babel where different computer languages cannot speak. HPXML is a way for computer software to share home performance data. Benefits from a standardized

[Network Support.](#)

## What Are Your Burning Questions?

The [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#) team wants to know what programmatic challenges are keeping you up at night. Struggling to convert home energy assessments to upgrades? Wishing for ways to streamline the loan application process? [Tell us](#) what residential energy efficiency program questions you want answered so we can help.

## Tech-to-Market Residential Roadmaps



DOE is [requesting information](#) concerning a new set of roadmaps to help guide the research, development, and demonstration activities of three components of its Building America program:

- High-performance, moisture-managed envelope systems
- Optimal comfort systems for low-load homes
- Optimal ventilation systems

financial sector. The expanded use of HPXML helps:

- Reduce time and cost of collecting and transferring home and energy-related data.
- Foster new and strengthen existing organizational relationships within the residential supply chain.
- Increase the transparency of energy efficiency work to facilitate deeper market penetration of energy efficiency products and services.
- Enhance programs' ability to quantify energy savings through standardized, data-rich evaluation, measurement, and verification methods.
- Improve the quality assurance systems and practices needed to efficiently support, measure, and verify energy performance.

Explore the [guide](#) to see if HPXML is right for your program, and find more evaluation and data collection solutions in the [Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center](#).

data format include less paperwork, less duplicative data entry by contractors, and more efficient incentive processing. [Register for the Better Buildings Summit](#) to learn more about HPXML.

and indoor air quality (IAQ) solutions for low-load homes

## Michigan Network Member Makes the Case for Energy Efficiency



In addition to announcing its [Earth Day event](#), Better Buildings Residential Network member [West Michigan Environmental Action Council](#) took to Twitter to remind its followers that Michigan residents [save \\$4 for every \\$1](#) invested in energy efficiency.

## Meet the Members

### New Network Members Help Homeowners Spring Into Energy Savings

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

- [EternaTile, Inc.](#), in Pompano Beach, Florida, manufactures energy-efficient roofing systems with solar capacity designed to reduce homes' electricity consumption through solar energy.
- [Cool Choices](#) is a nonprofit in Madison, Wisconsin, helping

## Home Energy Pros Spotlight\*

[Join the conversation](#) on Home Energy Pros, and discuss plans for celebrating Earth Day on April 22.

## Building a Greener Workforce

Applications are being sought for the following residential energy efficiency job:

individuals, communities, and small businesses adopt sustainable practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- [Energy Smart Home Performance](#) is a northeastern Ohio home performance contracting team led by husband and wife Nate Adams and Rachel Adkins.
- [Sunnovations, Inc.](#), is a McLean, Virginia-based firm offering smart controllers that homeowners can attach to existing hot water heaters to remotely monitor and control hot water energy use.
- [ResiSpeak](#) is a North Carolina data services provider that provides homeowners a one-stop Web portal where they can analyze potential energy savings using their utility bill.

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

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### Think Ahead With New Blogs and Reports

Whether it is next tax season or the next extreme weather event, these latest resources will help you plan ahead for both energy and cost savings:

- “[Energy Efficiency Tax Credits, Rebates and Financing: What Options Are Available for You?](#)” answers questions about what kind of financial assistance is available to make energy-efficient purchases more affordable (DOE, March 2015).
- [Resiliency Through Energy Efficiency: Disaster Mitigation and Residential Rebuilding Strategies for and by State Energy Offices](#) explores strategies that can be implemented to rebuild the residential sector following a natural disaster and prepare for potential future disasters with a focus on energy efficiency (National Association of State Energy Officials, April 2015).

- [Executive Director, EcoWorks](#) (Detroit, MI)

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

### Quotable

“The incentive needs to be high enough to make something happen, but you need to understand what it is that you actually want to have happen.”

– Dana Fischer of [Efficiency Maine](#), a Better Buildings Residential Network member, as featured in the new [Designing Incentives Toolkit](#)

### \*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

## Share the View

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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.

[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; after receiving your confirmation email, request to join the Residential Network Group.

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](http://betterbuildings.energy.gov/bbrn)