

ENERGY.GOV

Office of  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

## Building Technologies Office

May 1, 2019

### RESIDENTIAL ENERGY DISPATCH

#### ENERGY STAR Awards Winners Announced by US Department of Energy and US Environmental Protection Agency

DOE and EPA have named the winners of the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR awards honoring select Sponsors and contractors.

Highlights include Columbia Water & Light (Columbia, MO), a municipal utility that integrated DOE's [Home Energy Score](#) in their residential programs and formed partnerships to promote energy efficiency in real estate transactions.

Contractor of the Year awardees include: [AZ Energy Efficient Home](#), [Ciel Power](#), [DNR Construction](#), [EDGE Energy](#), [Elevation Solar](#), [GreenSavers](#), [Home Energy Medics](#), [Ideal Energy](#) and [Wise Home Energy](#).

The full list of award winners and their accomplishments can be found at [energystar.gov/awards](http://energystar.gov/awards).



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#### Zero Energy Ready Home Certifications Double Three Straight Years

The [Zero Energy Ready \(ZER\) Home](#) program represents the Federal government's most rigorous guidelines for high performance, and strengthens our communities and families by delivering utility bill savings, healthier indoor environments, enhanced comfort and greater durability.

The number of certified ZER homes doubled from 2016 to 2018, and reached a record number of certified homes in January



#### Peer Exchange Calls

May 9  
[Residential Energy Efficiency in a World of Funding Constraints](#)

May 23  
[Finding the Balance Between Solar and Energy Efficiency](#)

June 13  
[Modular Housing: Tiny Homes and What the Future of Homeownership Means for Energy Efficiency](#)

2019 during the slowest part of the year for construction.

Learn more [here](#).

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## New Better Buildings Residential Network Lessons Learned Available

Lessons Learned: Peer Exchange Calls No. 17 summarizes a handful of interesting revelations from the most recent quarter's Peer Exchange calls. Did you know, for example, that cold climate heat pumps often meet or even beat gas furnaces in operational costs?



Learn lessons shared by Elevate Energy and others in the fact sheet [here](#).

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## DOE Launches Home Improvement Expert

DOE's Building America program has a new resource called Home Improvement Expert (HEI) that can help homeowners with the 15 million energy-related home improvements they make each year.

Specifically, 21 individual home improvement checklists can be attached to vendor contracts to ensure quality work, and help vendors to be more competitive. This is important because research shows energy-related home improvements are significantly non-compliant with industry best practices concerning performance and savings.



To access the HIE checklists click [here](#).

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## Solar Decathlon Collegiate Winners Announced

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University team was victorious as the Grand Winner at the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Design Challenge Weekend. The event was held on April 12-14, 2019, at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado, and included 45 finalist teams, representing 37 collegiate institutions, across the United States and other countries.

The [U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon](#) is a collegiate competition, comprising 10 contests, that challenges student teams to design and build

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## Peer Exchange Call Summaries

All summaries can be found at the [BBRN Peer Exchange Call Summary webpage](#). The most recent Peer Exchange Call summaries posted are:

March 14  
[Efficiency and Resilience Improvements with PACE Financing](#)

February 28  
[We Love Our National Labs: Research Results Part 2](#)

February 14  
[We Love Our National Labs: Research Results Part 1](#)

January 24  
[Resiliency in the Face of Disaster: Energy Efficiency's Role](#)

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## Upcoming Events

May 14-15  
[NEEA \(Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance\) Efficiency Exchange](#)

May 21-24  
[Modular and Offsite Construction Conference](#)

August 1-2  
[Southeast Building Conference](#)

October 1-3  
[Energy & Environmental Building Alliance High Performance Home Summit](#)

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## Quick Quiz

According to the [U.S. Department of Energy](#), how much of the roughly \$2,100 the average American household spends on energy every year is wasted through drafts, air leaks,

highly efficient and innovative buildings powered by renewable energy. The participating teams for the [2020 Build Challenge](#) have also been announced!



Follow the action at [#SolarDecathlonBuild](#) and [#SolarDecathlonDesign](#).

Learn more [here](#).

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### **Rocky Mountain Institute Releases New Report on the Economics of Zero Energy Homes**

Better Buildings Residential Network member Rocky Mountain Institute released a new report concerning the significant opportunity building new single-family homes to Zero Energy (ZE) or Zero Energy Ready (ZER) design standards represents in improving the U.S. building stock. "The Economics of Zero Energy Homes" report from Rocky Mountain Institute demonstrates that the cost increase to build a ZE or ZER home is modest -- far less than consumers, builders and policymakers realize.

Builders can use the recommendations provided in the report to fine-tune home designs and construction processes to minimize incremental costs. The report also outlines key actions that policymakers can take to drive increased adoption of such homes in their jurisdiction. Read the report [here](#).

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### **Partner Recognition**

The [Better Buildings Residential Network](#) welcomes its newest members, [Northeast Natural Homes](#), the [National Fenestration Rating Council](#), [Energy Circle](#) and [Kean University](#), to the Network! [Join now](#).

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### **Resource Toolbox**



[Pierce County Healthy Homes Case Study](#), Washington State Weatherization Plus Health Program Pilot

and outdated heating and cooling systems? (See the bottom of this newsletter for the answer.)

- A. 2-5%
- B. 7.5%
- C. 10-20%
- D. 50%

[Connected Thermostats Program Guide](#), Consortium for Energy Efficiency

[Home Energy Labeling: A Guide for State and Local Governments](#), Energy Metrics to Promote Residential Energy Scorecards in States (EMPRESS) Project

[The New Leaders of the Pack: ACEEE's Fourth National Review of Exemplary Energy Efficiency Programs](#), American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

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## Share the Residential Energy Dispatch Newsletter



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Quiz Answer: C

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