

Building Technologies Office

December 12, 2019

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY DISPATCH**Congratulations to the 2019 Housing Innovation Award Winners!**

Since 2013, the DOE Housing Innovation Awards have honored the very best in innovation on the path to zero energy ready homes by recognizing forward-thinking builders who are delivering a better experience to American homebuyers. Explore these award-winning homes on the [Tour of Zero](#). The [2019 Housing Innovation Awards](#) ceremony was held on Tuesday, October 1 at the [EEBA High Performance Home Summit](#) in Denver, Colorado.

**Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Century Club Contractors**

Congratulations to the participating Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HPwES) contractors who earned the 2019 Century Club Award -- a recognition bestowed on contractors completing 100 or more projects in the past year. HPwES contractors use building science-based principles to make energy efficient improvements that improve home comfort, save energy, and protect the environment. To learn about HPwES and this year's winners, visit www.energystar.gov/hpwes.

New Blog Series on Advanced Building Construction

Check out a new blog series on the Building Technologies Office's (BTO) recently launched Advanced Building Construction (ABC) initiative. ABC seeks to address several long-standing challenges that have kept new and existing buildings from unlocking their full potential to reduce energy. The first post provides an overview, with other posts focusing on opportunities to improve new construction, off-site/prefabricated components, workforce needs, and next generation building materials among other related topics.

[Read](#) the first post in the ABC 101 Blog Series.

2020 Solar Decathlon Design Challenge Participants Announced

Eighty-two teams from 55 collegiate institutions are participating in the next U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Design Challenge! These teams are vying to be selected as one of the finalist teams to present and compete at the Design Challenge Weekend, scheduled for April 17-19, 2020 at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Finalists will be announced in February 2020, and winning teams will be selected at the April event.

View [all 55 collegiate institutions](#) participating in the 2020 Design Challenge.

**First Solar Decathlon Africa Winners Include Colorado School of Mines**

The Inter House team, a collaboration project that included students from the Colorado School of Mines, was awarded first place in the first ever Solar Decathlon Africa held in Ben Guerir, Morocco. A total of 18 teams built zero energy homes, including three other U.S. institutions: Worcester Polytechnic Institute, the University of Seattle, and the University of Maryland.

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**JOIN THE BETTER BUILDINGS
RESIDENTIAL NETWORK »**

Upcoming Better Buildings Residential Network Peer Exchange Calls

Thursday, January 9, 2019

[Known Unknowns: Key Energy Efficiency Trends in the New Year](#)

Thursday, January 23, 2019

[Going Deep -- What Drives Deep Energy Retrofits](#)

Peer Exchange Call Summaries

All summaries, including the most recent below, can be found at the [Better Buildings Residential Network Peer Exchange Call Summary webpage](#):

Thursday, September 26, 2019

[Disaster! Resilience: Adjusting & Adapting Pre- and Post-Disaster](#)

Thursday, September 12, 2019

[Affordability -- The State of Energy-Efficient Housing for All Americans](#)

Thursday, August 8, 2019

[Home Performance and Real Estate](#)

Upcoming Events

January 21-23

[ACEEE Conference on Health, Environment, and Energy](#)

February 25, 2020

[ACEEE Rural Energy Conference](#)

Inter House featured intercultural architecture, interactive energy management systems, integrated control systems and interaction with the environment, as well as cost-effective decisions such as use of local building materials.

[Learn more about Solar Decathlon Africa and the winners.](#)



BTO Supports STEM Festival, DOE's Disability Mentoring Day

Representatives from DOE EERE's Building Technologies (BTO) and Advanced Manufacturing (AMO) Offices lent support to the Maryland STEM Festival and Parade on October 16. Terrence Mosley and Nikitha Radhakrishnan from BTO highlighted good and bad energy efficiency practices to help students explore how to improve efficiency at home with their parents, while AMO's Helena Khazdozian shared a collection of 3-D printed models. Rounding out the EERE delegation were Othalene Lawrence from the Workforce Management Office and a member of the University of Maryland 2017 Solar Decathlon winning team.

Terrence Mosley, an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, also took part in the U.S. Department of Energy's Disability Mentoring Day on October 25. This event connected students with DOE mentors and introduced them to internship, volunteer, and graduate opportunities that DOE provides for all students, regardless of physical ability.



BTO Contributes to New Report on Resilient Housing in Island Communities

The Building Technologies Office worked with the Florida Solar Energy Center to contribute to the energy efficiency section of the recently published [Keep Safe: A Guide to Resilient Housing Design and Construction in Island Communities](#). Roughly 55% of construction in Puerto Rico is informal -- meaning it is not reviewed by permitting or code officials. This resource provides easily accessible information on resilient housing design and construction that can be used by renters, homeowners, designers, and contractors.

The book is available as a free download in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

New Better Buildings Residential Network Lessons Learned Available

The Better Buildings Residential Network hosts Peer Exchange Calls that connect energy efficiency programs and partners to share best practices and learn from one another to increase the number of energy efficient homes. "Lessons Learned" fact sheets highlight calls from the past quarter. Recent calls focused on passive survivability, window attachments, and residential energy data analysis tools.

Learn lessons shared by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and others in the new [fact sheet](#).



Partner Recognition

The [Better Buildings Residential Network](#) welcomes its newest members: [Ciel Power](#), [See Change Institute](#), [Center for Sustainable Energy](#), [Prince George's County, MD](#), and [Transduction Technologies](#)!

If your organization is not yet a member, click [here](#) to join.

April 27-30, 2020
[2020 BPA National Home Performance Conference & Trade Show](#)

Quick Quiz

According to the [U.S. Department of Energy](#), water heating typically accounts for what percentage of a residential utility bill? (See answer at bottom.)

- A. 6%
- B. 8%
- C. 10%
- D. 12%

Resource Toolbox



- [Energy-Plus-Health Playbook](#), Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
- [Value Added: Measuring the Health Benefits of the 'Layer Cake'](#), Regulatory Assistance Project
- [ENERGY STAR Product Finder](#), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- [ResStock Analysis Tool](#), National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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Quiz Answer: D

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