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Office of
ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Building Technologies Office

March 18, 2020

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY DISPATCH

40 Newly Selected Ventures Reimagine the "ABCs" of Building Construction

The U.S. Department of Energy's Building Technologies Office (BTO) awarded $26.3 million to 40 competitively selected projects, led by 29 organizations, to pursue innovations that can advance the goals of BTO's Advanced Building Construction with Energy-Efficient Technologies & Practices (ABC) Funding Opportunity. The funding opportunity underpins the Advanced Building Construction Initiative, one of BTO's principal efforts to unlock deeper energy savings in the U.S. building sector.

Learn more about the awards on BTO's Advanced Building Construction website.

Denver Home Energy Score Pilot Finds Overwhelming Desire for Home Energy Info

The City and County of Denver recently wrapped up a Home Energy Score pilot to explore the feasibility of establishing a home energy rating for all of its single family homes.

Learn more about the findings from Denver's Home Energy Score Pilot Evaluation Report in this BTO article.

Contents:

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 smart home technologies, residential program management, and solar energy retrofits.

Summaries of hundreds of Better Buildings Residential Network Peer Exchange Calls are available with speaker PowerPoint presentations and are searchable by key word and date here.

Learn lessons shared by CLEAResult and others in the new fact sheet, and register for upcoming calls in this newsletter.

CLEAResult

Solar Decathlon Exhibitions

Collegiate institutions can start planning now for the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon® in 2021 and 2022. The 2021 Design Challenge will add a new contest focused on the lifecycle impacts of buildings. The 2022 Build Challenge will be a local-build format, with participating teams constructing, operating, and exhibiting their homes in their own communities.

Learn more at the Solar Decathlon website.

JOIN THE BETTER BUILDINGS RESIDENTIAL NETWORK »

Upcoming Better Buildings Residential Network Peer Exchange Calls

Thursday, March 26, 2020
How Quality Installation Impacts Equipment

Thursday, April 9, 2020
How Hot Is It? Preparing for Summer Cooling Season

Thursday, April 23, 2020
Topic TBD

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, March 12, 2020
The State of Gas Energy Efficiency Programs

Thursday, February 27, 2020
Heat Pump Water Heaters: What You Need to Know Right Now

Thursday, February 13, 2020
Comfort: The Biggest Driver of Residential Energy Efficiency?

Don't Miss Out! Use the ENERGY STAR "Rule Your Attic!" Campaign to Amplify Your Message to Homeowners!

Join ENERGY STAR, utilities, retailers, manufacturers, energy-efficiency programs, and contractors in saving energy by improving America's under-insulated homes. ENERGY STAR's Rule Your Attic! campaign provides a simple messaging platform to educate homeowners on the problem of under-insulated homes. The campaign offers free content and educational materials to help you motivate homeowners to check for low insulation levels and promote the proper sealing and insulation of homes.

Learn more about how you can Rule Your Attic on the ENERGY STAR website.

JUMP into STEM

Students from Tennessee State University, Georgia Tech, Carnegie Mellon University, The University of California at Berkeley, Hampton University, The University of Michigan, and Clark Atlanta University gathered at the latest JUMP into STEM competition on January 31 to present their innovative building science solutions to a panel of experts. Six members of the winning teams from Georgia Tech and Clark Atlanta University will have the outstanding opportunity to participate in summer internships at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) or the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Learn more about JUMP into STEM on ORNL's website.

Quick Quiz

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, what percentage of air infiltration is due to openings in windows, doors, and skylights? (Answer at bottom.)

A. 5%
B. 10%
C. 15%
D. 20%

New Interior Window Shade Ratings Launched

Working with a leading manufacturer of custom window treatments, the Attachments Energy Rating Council (AERC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently released the first energy improvement ratings for interior window shades. Rating of these window attachment products – energy-efficient cellular shades and cellular roller shades (see photo) – brings more choice to the residential market, joining the range of storm windows that AERC rated in Winter 2018.

DOE research has shown that window attachment products have the potential to reduce energy usage significantly. In older homes, window systems typically account for 25% of annual heating and cooling costs but can be responsible for as much as 40%.

More information on the ratings and products is available at aercenergyrating.org.

(Pictured from left: Laura Larson, Hunter Douglas; Shannon Christie, D+R International; Ralph Vasami, AERC; Katie Cort, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; Stephen Mullaly, Hunter Douglas; Erika Burns, D+R International; Marc LaFrance, DOE; and Stacy Lambright, Hunter Douglas)

SLOPE – A New State and Local Energy Planning Tool

The State and Local Planning for Energy Platform (SLOPE) tool is a collaboration between DOE and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) which enables more data-driven state and local energy planning by integrating dozens of distinct sources of energy planning by integrating dozens of distinct sources of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and, soon, sustainable transportation data and analysis.

Decision makers can use SLOPE to quickly see and understand local, cost-effective options to meet their energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation goals.

Access the SLOPE platform on NREL's website.

Partner Recognition

The Better Buildings Residential Network welcomes its newest members: Stash Energy, Green Compass Sustainability Consulting, Calortech, Thinkwell Shift, and HDR Consulting!

If your organization is not yet a member, click here to join.

Resource Toolbox

- Air Source Heat Pump Buying Guide, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership
- Community Resilience Planning and Clean Energy, American Council for an Energy-Efficiency Economy
- Non-Energy Benefits of Energy Efficiency, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
- Hours of Safety in Cold Weather, Rocky Mountain Institute

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Quiz Answer: D

DOE Twitter

EERE Facebook

EERE LinkedIn