

**ENERGY.GOV**

Office of  
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RENEWABLE ENERGY**

## Building Technologies Office

May 7, 2021

### ***RESIDENTIAL ENERGY DISPATCH***

#### **Residential Team in Ten Sessions at BPA National Conference**

Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm and the Residential Buildings Integration (RBI) team participated in the recent Building Performance Association (BPA) [2021 National Home Performance Conference](#) from April 12-16. The sessions, now available for viewing, cover a wide range of topics, including home performance, decarbonization, virtual home assessments, DOE's future plans, workforce, diversity, and affordable windows.

[View a recording of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm's remarks..](#)



#### **Advanced Building Construction (ABC) Collaborative Inaugural Summit**

The Summit, hosted by the [Advanced Building Construction Collaborative](#), began with [remarks from U.S. Energy Secretary Granholm](#) and focused on the technologies and business models needed to bring the U.S. construction sector into a decarbonized, digital

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and highly productive era. Industry experts from the private and public sectors presented experiences, trends, and best practices needed for construction and retrofits to become higher performance while maintaining affordability.

For more information about DOE's ABC Initiative, visit [buildings.energy.gov/abc](https://buildings.energy.gov/abc) or download the [fact sheet](#).

You're also encouraged to join the [Better Buildings Summit](#) for a related session on May 19: *Easy as ABC: How Advanced Building Construction Creates Efficient, Affordable, and Appealing Solutions for Low-Carbon Buildings*.



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## Home Energy Score Reaches Milestone

[Home Energy Score](#), a program announced by then-Vice President Joe Biden, recorded the 150,000th Score in January 2021. Like a miles-per-gallon rating but for homes, the Score provides homeowners, buyers, and renters reliable and actionable information about a home's energy use. While the first 75,000 Scores were collected in the span of five years, the next 75,000 were completed in just three years, despite a slowdown in 2020 because of COVID – due largely to expanded support by several jurisdictions to include Home Energy Scores in residential home sales. [Click here](#) to read the latest.



## Upcoming Better Buildings Residential Network Peer Exchange Calls

Thursday, May 13  
[Low Income, Market Rate Residential Energy Efficiency: Reaching the Hard to Reach](#)

***DON'T FORGET! BETTER BUILDINGS, BETTER PLANTS SUMMIT 5/17-5/20!***

Thursday, May 27  
[Decarbonization and Residential Buildings](#)

Thursday, June 10  
[Environmental Justice and Residential Energy Efficiency](#)

Thursday, June 24  
[Residential Energy Efficiency and Jobs: The State of the COVID Recovery](#)

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## Peer Exchange Call Summaries

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

Thursday, April 8  
[Automation: Where Is the Balance Between Humans and Machines to Save Energy?](#)

Thursday, March 25  
[Smart Range Hoods vs. Indoor Air](#)

## Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Sponsors and Contractors Receive Top Honors

As part of the 2021 ENERGY STAR® awards held in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DOE recently announced its [2021 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year and Contractor of the Year Awards](#) for 30 participating Sponsors and contractors in the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® (HPwES) program. Each year, HPwES honors Sponsors and contractors who have made outstanding contributions to protecting the environment through superior energy achievements. The 2021 award recipients were chosen, in part, because of their perseverance during the pandemic to continue delivering energy efficiency services and improvements, while also refocusing their businesses and adapting to a changed work environment.

[Learn more about the Awards and read profiles of this year's winners here.](#)



## Winners Named in Solar Decathlon Build and Design Challenges

Seventy-two teams representing 12 countries participated in the Solar Decathlon Competition Event held April 15-18. Student teams designed resilient and energy-efficient, homes, schools, offices, and retail spaces, nine of which were constructed and presented in the first-ever [Solar Decathlon Virtual Village](#) on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The virtual Competition Event featured dynamic team presentations, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities for all collegiate teams in the U.S. and around the world.

Both the Build and Design Challenges were held April 15 - 18. The virtual event featured dynamic team presentations, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities for all collegiate teams in the U.S. and around the world.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm [announced the winners live.](#)

The [Build Challenge winning team from the University of Colorado Boulder](#) showcased both technology and community-based solutions, employing heat pumps for heating and

[Quality: Coming to Kitchens Near You Soon](#)

Thursday, March 11  
[Carrying the Load: What Is the State of Load Flexibility and Energy Efficiency?](#)

Thursday, February 25  
[The Latest on Windows: Thin Triples and Other Advances in Efficiency](#)

Thursday, February 11  
[Passing the Test: How Are Cost Effectiveness Tests Changing?](#)

Thursday, January 28  
[Diversity and Inclusion in Residential Energy Efficiency: What's Being Done & How Is It Working?](#)

Thursday, January 14  
[A Look Ahead at the Coming Year in Energy Efficiency](#)

Thursday, December 10  
[A Review of the Historic Past Year in Energy Efficiency](#)

## Quick Quiz

According to the [Energy Information Administration](#), the average U.S. household consumes about how many kilowatt hours each year? (Answer at bottom.)

- A. 6,000
- B. 11,000
- C. 16,000
- D. 22,000

cooling in an extreme climate, and including an accessory dwelling unit to provide scarce affordable housing in the mountain community where it is constructed. The winning team in the Design Challenge Commercial Division from the University of Oregon designed a zero energy elementary school that produces as much energy as it uses in a year, while serving as a teaching tool for students. The winning team in the Design Challenge Residential division from Northwestern University, designed a zero energy urban single family home that responds to COVID-related lifestyle changes with flexible space that can serve as an accessory dwelling unit, home office, or quarantine housing.

[Learn more about the Build and Design Challenge winners.](#)



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## Partner Recognition

The [Better Buildings Residential Network](#) welcomes its newest members: [Franklin Energy Services](#), [Aboriginal Housing Management Corporation](#), [Green Building Consulting](#), [SunTech Drive](#), [Energy Fit Buildings](#), Geothermal Design Center, North Branch Services, and [Grin Sustainability](#) to the Network! If your organization is not yet a member, click [here](#) to join.

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## Resource Toolbox



[Gas Stoves: Health and Air Quality Impacts and Solutions](#), RMI

[Texas Blackouts Offer a Lesson for Reducing Dangerous Spikes in Energy Demand](#), American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

[Low- and Moderate-Income Solar Policy Basics](#), National Renewable Energy Laboratory

[How Residential Energy Storage Could Help Support the Power Grid](#), McKinsey & Company

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Quiz Answer: B

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