

ENERGY.GOV

Office of  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

## Building Technologies Office

May, 2022

# RESIDENTIAL ENERGY DISPATCH



### \$32 Million to Accelerate Next-Generation Building Upgrades

DOE announced \$32 million to fund over 30 next-generation building retrofit projects focused on dramatically improving affordable housing on March 14th. Seven selected teams will demonstrate renovation techniques that reduce disruption to tenants while upgrading the energy performance of buildings more quickly, affordably, and effectively. These techniques, like prefabricating walls and drop-in replacements for heating, cooling and hot water systems, can revolutionize construction and renovation.

Read the DOE Press Release and learn more about the seven projects [here](#).

### New Report and Building Stock Characterization Study Chart a Path Forward for Decarbonizing U.S. Building Stock

Two recent studies, funded by DOE's Building Technologies Office, provide a foundation for guiding the [Advanced Building Construction \(ABC\) Initiative's](#) work. [Market Opportunities and Challenges for Decarbonizing U.S. Buildings](#) considers how market conditions will likely affect the viability of ABC approaches, and the [U.S. Building Stock Characterization Study: A National Typology for Decarbonizing U.S. Buildings](#) helps answer questions like "Which building segments should be targeted first? What technologies are most appropriate given energy demand, costs, and other factors?" Together, these two reports are helping to inform the role of ABC as well as other critical technologies like heat pumps in our national building decarbonization efforts.

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JOIN THE BETTER  
BUILDINGS RESIDENTIAL  
NETWORK

### Upcoming Better Buildings Residential Network Peer Exchange Calls

Thursday, May 26, 2022  
[The Impact of Insurance and Mortgages on Energy Efficiency – Resilience, New Markets, and More](#)

## ABC Initiative Conference Appearance

Members of the [Advanced Building Construction \(ABC\) Collaborative](#) project team presented in April at the [Advancing Prefabrication](#) conference, which is dedicated to revolutionizing prefab, modular and industrialized manufacturing approaches across the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) supply chain.

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## National Coalition to Strengthen Building Performance Standards

On January 21st the [Biden-Harris Administration](#) announced a [National Coalition to Strengthen Building Performance Standards \(BPS\)](#). The 33 state & local government signees represent about 20% of U.S. building floor area and are committed to advancing BPS' by Earth Day 2024. This is an unprecedented push to improve building performance and reduce the emissions from existing buildings.

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## Comfort Systems Road Map: A Plug-and-Play Residential Duct System

Rheia, a new company that grew out of research funded in part by the Department of Energy's Building America Program, is partnering with some of the country's top home builders to demonstrate a patent-pending "plug-and-play" air duct system. Read how strategic Building America research helped create an innovative, market-ready HVAC solution for heating and cooling ducts inside conditioned spaces.

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Thursday, June 9, 2022  
[The State of Home Labeling and Residential Energy Efficiency](#)

Thursday, June 23, 2022  
[Coming Soon: Innovations Heading to the Residential Efficiency Market from the DOE Advanced Building Construction Initiative](#)

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## Peer Exchange Call Summaries

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

Thursday, May 12  
[Training, New Technology, and Workforce Recruitment and Retention Challenges](#)

Thursday, April 28  
[What Does Electrification at Scale Look Like?](#)

Thursday, April 14  
[Homes and Climate – Connecting the Dots](#)

Thursday, March 24  
[All Things Ductless – Everything You Wanted to Know But Didn't Know to Ask](#)

Thursday, March 14  
[Are You Ready? Preparing Homes for Extreme Weather](#)

Thursday, February 24  
[It's Not About Energy, It's About Comfort – Addressing the Reality](#)

Thursday, February 10  
[Secrets from the most successful residential efficiency programs](#)

Thursday, January 27  
[Smart Diagnostics – New Advances in the Efficiency Field](#)

Thursday, January 13  
[Known Unknowns: Key Energy Efficiency Trends in the New Year](#)

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## Quick Quiz

## New Energy Scenario Planner Tool Launched

State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) launched its new 'Scenario Planner' tool in February, which visualizes scenarios for future energy consumption, CO2 emissions, and system costs of a selected state or county. Users can select and explore various energy planning pathways, including grid decarbonization and electrification strategies, in isolation and in combination to better understand different scenarios.

## Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit

The DOE [Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit](#) took place May 17-19, 2022, returning to an in-person format. This annual event for Better Buildings, Better Plants Partners and other key stakeholders provides the opportunity for professionals to explore emerging technologies and share innovative strategies in energy efficiency, decarbonization, and water and waste reduction. Attendees took part in interactive sessions with industry experts and market leaders and had opportunities to network with peers.

## Partner Recognition

The [Better Buildings Residential Network](#) welcomes its newest members: [The Beneficial Electrification League](#), [The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition](#), [Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies](#), [Hispanics in Energy](#), [KSV](#), [MyHEAT](#), and [The Stella Group](#).

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

## Resource Toolbox



- [Do-It-Yourself Energy Savings Projects](#), Department of Energy
- [10 Energy Saving Tips for Spring](#), Department of Energy
- [Health + Home Performance Infographic](#), U.S. Department of Energy
- [Activate Power Management on Your Computer](#), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Quiz Answer: A) [Electronics and appliances that consume power when they are turned off but still plugged in.](#)

What are phantom loads? (Answer at bottom.)

- A. Electronics and appliances that consume power when they are turned off but still plugged in.
- B. Residual or unused energy that can be re-purposed to power electronics and appliances.
- C. The energy stored in electronics and appliances after they are unplugged.
- D. Warnings on electronic devices that indicate they need to be charged or plugged in.

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