

Peer Exchange Calls, Winter 2021, No. 28

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 in order to increase the number of homes that are energy efficient. Follow the links below to view full summaries of each call, and visit the Better Buildings Residential Network website at energy.gov/eere/better-buildings-residential-network to view a schedule of upcoming Peer Exchange Calls.



Address the 8 Key Policy Challenges Facing Residential Efficiency.

The AnnDyl Policy Group's Kara Saul Rinaldi discussed policy solutions to eight key challenges facing residential efficiency: the shortage of trained workers; high up-front costs; equity for low-income families; lack of access to utility data; inadequate R&D funding; valuing efficiency in real estate transactions; the lack of financing options; and unhealthy homes.

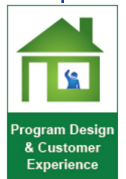
▶ [A Look at the Coming Year in Energy Efficiency](#) January 14, 2021



Promote Best Practices in Efficiency Cost-Effectiveness Testing.

ACEEE's Marty Kushler identified eight best practices for cost-effectiveness testing. One interesting observation was that decisions should be influenced by other costs and benefits related to relevant state policies, like carbon emissions goals.

▶ [How Are Residential Cost Effectiveness Tests Changing?](#) February 11, 2021



Advance demand flexibility with grid-interactive efficient buildings (GEBs).

The U.S. Department of Energy's Erika Gupta observed that we need demand flexibility for a lower-cost decarbonization transition, and that grid-interactive efficient buildings are a key pathway to that goal.

▶ [Carrying the Load: What Is the State of Load Flexibility and Energy Efficiency?](#) March 11, 2021



Correctly size ductless heat pumps for maximum performance.

CLEAResult's Bruce Manclark emphasized the importance of equipment sizing and selection when installing ductless heat pumps. His key recommendations were sizing to meet the load of the zone(s) at design conditions; prioritizing minimum capacity as much as maximum capacity; and looking for a unit with at least a 4:1 ratio between its maximum and minimum capacity at 47 degrees Fahrenheit.

▶ [All Things Ductless: Everything You Wanted to Know but Didn't Know to Ask](#) March 24, 2021

