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Office of
ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Building Technologies Office

March 2023

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY DISPATCH

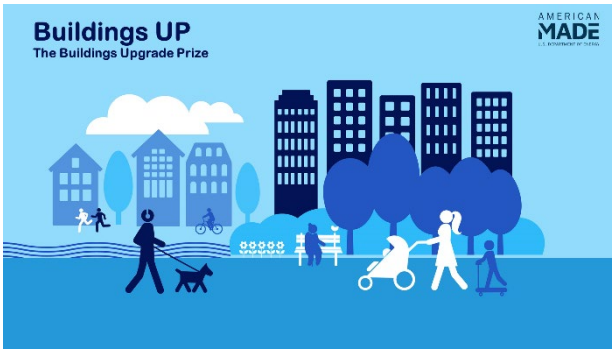
The Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP) Phase 1 Applications Now Open

In January 2023, the US Department of Energy announced the Buildings UP Prize which is offering more than $22 million in cash prizes and technical assistance to teams across America with winning ideas to accelerate widespread, equitable energy efficiency, and buildings electrification updates.

Up to 50 Application Support Prizes of $5,000 and 10 hours of technical assistance are available to help new and under-resourced teams complete Phase 1 applications. The Application Support Prize opened for submissions on Jan. 18, 2023, and will be awarded on a rolling basis until funds are expended.

During Phase 1, open from February 18 - July 18, 2023, teams will submit their innovative concepts aimed at increasing building energy upgrades through one of two pathways, "Equity-Centered Innovation" or "Open Innovation." In addition to cash prizes, winners from both pathways will also receive expert technical assistance and coaching to help bring their ideas to life. For more information and to access online applications for Phase 1, go to www.herox.com/BuildingsUP.

Contents:



120+ Teams to Compete in Solar Decathlon 2023 Design Challenge

In late 2022, 124 teams from 97 collegiate institutions in 16 countries began working to solve the climate crisis, one building at a time, by participating in the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2023 Design Challenge, a competition to design high-performance, low-carbon buildings powered by renewables.

Explore the participating teams map to see who will be competing here. The 2023 Design Challenge finalists will compete during an expert-juried final competition event in April 2023 at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, or virtually.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Solar Decathlon

New Better Buildings Residential Network - Lessons Learned Fact Sheets from Peer Exchange Calls

The Residential Network hosts a series of Peer Exchange Calls twice a month 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.

JOIN THE BETTER BUILDINGS RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

Upcoming Better Buildings Residential Network Peer Exchange Calls

Thursday, April 13
Low-Income Residential Energy Efficiency Best Practices - Part 2

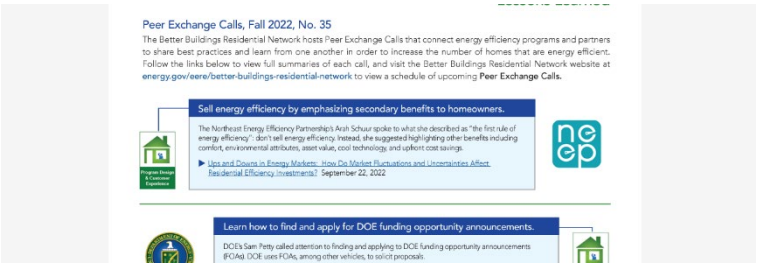
Thursday, April 27
Energy Efficiency and Demand Flexibility - Promoting and Scaling Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings (GEBs)

Thursday, May 11
The Envelope Please...Lessons Learned from Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Award Winners

Thursday, May 25
To Be Announced

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:



View some of the lessons learned shared by members during various Peer Exchange Calls over the past year below:

[Lessons Learned: Peer Exchange Call No. 35 (Fall 2022)]
[Lessons Learned: Peer Exchange Call No. 34 (Summer 2022)]
[Lessons Learned: Peer Exchange Call No. 33 (Winter 2022)]
[Lessons Learned: Peer Exchange Call No. 32 (Fall 2021)]

Home Energy Score - Update and Upcoming Events

Beginning July 1, 2023, homes listed for sale in the City of Bend, Oregon must include a Home Energy Score for buyers to review to improve transparency around energy cost of homes and to encourage energy efficiency. This is the latest, but not the first, city in the US to require a Home Energy Score report to prospective buyers or renters. More information on Home Energy Score can be found here.

The Home Energy Score team will host a session on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 2:00-3:30 PM ET, at the 2023 Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit titled, Provide Transparency to Residents and Incentivize Energy Efficiency with Home Energy Score. The team will also host a workshop on Monday, April 17, 2023 from 1:30-5:00 PM PT, at the Building Performance Association 2023 National Home Performance Conference. Attendees will hear about new Federal investments from the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Thursday, March 23
Low-Income Residential Energy Efficiency Best Practices - Part 1

Thursday, March 9
What is the Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP) and How to Win Prizes and Technical Assistance

Thursday, February 23
The Deep Retrofit - A Game Changer?

Thursday, February 9
Right-Sizing Equipment vs. Wrong-Sizing -- How Not to Waste Energy

Thursday, January 26
New DOE Funded Research Looks at Homeowner Motivations and Barriers to Electrify

Thursday, January 12
Public Roundtable - The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): Residential Energy Rebates and Contractor Training Programs

Thursday, December 8
The Big Heat Pump Push: How Are Programs, Contractors, and the Grid Responding?

Quick Quiz

How much electricity does a typical American home use per month? (Answer at bottom.)

A. About 9,000 kilowatt hours

B. About 900 kilowatt hours

C. 1.21 gigawatt hours

D. About 90,000 kilowatt hours

Join the Smart Tools for Efficient HVAC Performance (STEP) Campaign

The STEP Campaign is a collaborative initiative sponsored by the US Department of Energy and managed by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) that encourages and supports the use of smart diagnostic tools that allow residential HVAC technicians to efficiently install and commission new HVAC systems and identify and troubleshoot energy-wasting faults in existing systems. The campaign serves as a national platform for sharing information and recognizing the success of those using these tools. Learn more and get involved with the STEP Campaign here.

STEP | SMART TOOLS FOR EFFICIENT HVAC PERFORMANCE CAMPAIGN

Storm Window and Insulating Panel (SWIP) Campaign

The SWIP Campaign is a collaborative initiative sponsored by the US Department of Energy and managed by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) to accelerate the adoption of high-performance storm windows and insulating window panels (sometimes called window inserts and secondary glazing) that deliver energy savings and comfort in residential and commercial buildings at a fraction of the cost of full window replacement. The campaign serves as a national platform and one-stop-shop for sharing information and recognizing successes of key stakeholders and more. Learn more and get involved with the SWIP Campaign here.

SWIP | STORM WINDOW & INSULATING PANEL CAMPAIGN

Partner Recognition

The Better Buildings Residential Network welcomes its newest members: Sol Solutions Today, Frederick County Division of Energy and Environment, Res-Intel, Vacek LLC, thirdACT PBC, Metro Justice of Rochester, NY, Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association (CIMA), Resilient Retrofits, Sustainable Westchester, PECO Energy Company, and Home Energy Assessment of Lander LLC.

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

Resource Toolbox

- Better Buildings Residential Program Guide, US Department of Energy
- Green Buildings Career Map, US Department of Energy
- Home Improvement Expert, US Department of Energy
- Disaster Resistance Tool, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Residential ccASHP Buildings Electrification Study, E4THeFuture and US Department of Energy
- Energy Efficiency Day
- Very High-Efficiency Heat Pumps for Multifamily Resource Guide, International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology and US Department of Energy

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Quiz Answer: B) The correct answer is about 900 kilowatt hours

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