

## Peer Exchange Calls, Winter 2024, No. 40

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. View full summaries of all previous Peer Exchange Calls [here](#) and visit the Better Buildings Residential Network [website](#) for a schedule of upcoming calls.

### Better understand the connections between decarbonization and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Dr. Ardelia Clarke discussed the journey of equitable decarbonization, which included an overall research portfolio synopsis encapsulating the intersection of residential and commercial buildings from a physicist's perspective and the connection between buildings, people, and communities. Dr. Clarke highlighted that success of a traditional technology-centric approach is limited by socioeconomic factors.

▶ [Diversity, Equity Inclusion, and Residential Energy Efficiency, The Current Snapshot](#) January 11, 2024



Marketing & Outreach

### Learn more on what is happening in the energy efficiency workforce

Larry Zarker, CEO of the Building Performance Institute (BPI), walked through updates, objectives, scope, and upcoming BPI workforce certificates. Zarker's presentation included a variety of real examples from participants throughout the U.S. who were a part of different training cohorts and how those trainings impacted their lives and careers.

▶ [The Age of Workforce Challenges – How is Residential Efficiency Responding?](#) January 25, 2024



Contractor Engagement & Workforce Development

### Explore how artificial intelligence is impacting energy efficiency

Smart Electric Power Alliance's (SEPA) Ann Collier focused on the journey to carbon free, why artificial intelligence (AI) is being used now, opportunities for advanced analytics, and AI literacy. Collier ended her presentation on the U.S. Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights, which includes safe and effective systems, algorithmic discrimination protections, data privacy, notice and explanation, and human alternatives.

▶ [How is Artificial Intelligence's Use and Rapid Growth Impacting Energy Efficiency](#) February 8, 2024



Program Design & Customer Experience

### Dive into the connection between solar and energy efficiency

Katie Richardson, PhD, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), presented on State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE), a free and easy to access open platform that helps energy planners make data-driven decisions to achieve their communities' energy goals. Richardson highlighted the Scenario Planner and Data Viewer while emphasizing how SLOPE data can support energy planning.

▶ [The Solar – Energy Efficiency Nexus Update](#) March 14, 2024



Marketing & Outreach