

Peer Exchange Calls, Spring 2024, No. 41

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.

**Dive into demand response programs and their impact on comfort and energy usage**

Gabriel Kjos spoke on Portland General Electric's (PGE) Flex Load Implementation Multi-Family Water Heater Pilot program, which works to optimize resource delivery and performance, quantify energy shift from equipped water heaters, inform program design for demand response, and determine appropriate incentives for participants. The pilot found that removing Wi-Fi devices improved event results and moving forward they will continue to address connectivity issues.

▶ [Demand Response Programs and Their Impact on Peak Load Energy Usage and Comfort](#) April 25, 2024

**Check out the latest on window technologies**

Katie Cort, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), covered why windows matter and dove into a windows field validation study and analysis showcasing window and window attachments energy savings ranges, PNNL testing of thin triples, and more. Cort stated that energy savings were boosted with automation meaning that high efficiency shades and automation lead to improved energy savings (14% heating; 15% cooling).

▶ [The Latest on Zero Energy Windows, Thin Triples, and Advanced Window Technologies](#) May 9, 2024

**Explore DOE's efforts to deliver equitable solutions to households experiencing high energy burdens**

Shadae Mayfield Mond, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) ORISE Science, Technology, and Policy Fellow with the Building Technologies Office, presented on the DOE Affordable Home Energy Shot. This initiative aims to accelerate innovative retrofit solutions that reduce up-front costs, lower utility bills, improve safety and comfort, and address communities' broader needs. Its overall goal is for homes to have 50% lower upfront costs and 20% lower energy bills within a decade. The Home Energy Shot is seen as a vision for the future focusing on super-insulated retrofit panels, more efficient equipment, and more affordable and resilient homes.

▶ [Decarbonizing Low Income Homes – The DOE Affordable Home Energy Shot](#) May 23, 2024

**Dive into the new DOE decarbonization blueprint for the buildings sector**

Jared Langevin of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory discussed the people centered strategy for catalyzing and scaling U.S. building decarbonization that focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50-52% by 2030, 100% clean electricity by 2035, and provides 40% of benefits from federal climate and clean energy investments to disadvantaged communities. Moving forward Langevin and the team are engaging with a range of stakeholders, hosting a monthly webinar series, and more to continue to vet the blueprint strategy, put it into practice, and track its progress.

▶ [DOE's new National Blueprint for the Buildings Sector – What it Means for the Residential Sector](#) June 13, 2024

