

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Building America program is comprised of public/private partnerships that conduct systems research to improve overall housing performance, increase housing durability and comfort, reduce energy use, and increase energy security for America's homeowners. Program activities focus on finding solutions for both new and existing homes, as well as integrating clean onsite energy systems that will allow the homebuilding industry to provide homes that produce more energy than they use. In addition to the DOE management and staff, the Building America Program includes seven consortia, four national laboratories, and hundreds of builders, manufacturers, and service providers. Building America works closely with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) Program, co-manages the ENERGY STAR Program along with the Environmental Protection Agency, and works with other federal agencies to coordinate research findings and disseminate information. These partners make the program a successful source of knowledge and innovation for industry practitioners and government policy makers. Together, these cooperating agencies have provided reviews and shared insightful comments, as well as making the authors aware of their technical libraries.

The U.S. DOE Building America Program funded the development of this series of handbooks. DOE also funded the Building America consortia and national laboratories to form the basis for these best practices. The seven consortia are listed on the back cover of this document. The consortia have taken on the hard work of applied research, field testing, training builders, and transforming the results into building practices. Numerous drawings, descriptions, photos, and case studies originated with the consortia.

Many builders have chosen to use the Building America process in collaboration with the consortia and are quoted in this series of best practices with over a dozen featured in case studies. These builders deserve thankful recognition for contributing to the success of the Building America Program and the *Best Practices Series*.

Building America partners worked diligently on this project to further the cause of efficiency, resource conservation, or improved building performance. These groups have voluntarily supplied technical materials, review comments, or help in distribution. These contributors include Southface Energy Institute; Energy and Environmental Building Association, Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program; Consortium for Energy Efficiency, Air Conditioning Contractors of America, National Fenestration Rating Council, and National Association of Home Builders. National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges Extension Service Professors from universities throughout the nation provided valuable and in depth contributions. In particular, professors from the following universities devoted their time and shared their insights: University of Kentucky, Cornell University, University of Florida, University of Louisiana; and the University of Minnesota.

This project required coordination among the national laboratories. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Oak Ridge National Laboratory have taken the lead at producing this document. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory made its library of Building America documents available to the authors, reviewed the document, and has responsibility for posting the document to the Web. Scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory reviewed the document contents.

Christina Van Vleck lent this project her skill as a graphic artist. She prepared all of the original drawings and designed and laid out the overall series of books.

The authors and DOE offer their gratitude to the many contributors that made this project a success.

## INTRODUCTION

*Taking action in your community*



### HOMEOWNERS

*Shopping for value, comfort, and quality*



### MANAGERS

*Putting building science to work for your bottom line*



### MARKETERS

*Energy efficiency delivers the value that customers demand*



### SITE PLANNERS & DEVELOPERS

*Properly situated houses pay big dividends*



### DESIGNERS

*Well-crafted designs capture benefits for builders, buyers, and business*



### SITE SUPERVISORS

*Tools to help with project management*



### TRADES

*Professional tips for fast and easy installation*

## CASE STUDIES

*Bringing it all together*

