

Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals Project: Prezi Script

Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals Project – A collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Energy and the home energy upgrade industry.
The terms ‘weatherization’, ‘home energy upgrades’ and ‘retrofits’ are becoming much more common these days.
Due to mounting energy costs, a tighter economy and increased federal funding devoted to developing more energy efficient alternatives,
The home energy industry is rapidly expanding.
As an industry gains recognition and more individuals/ groups want to get involved, several challenges begin to emerge.
Specifically in the realm of home energy upgrades, such challenges are:
How can employers ensure that they are hiring individuals who can complete home energy upgrades in a complete and efficient manner?
How do home energy workers know that they are being trained using the latest technology and are learning requirements for effectively completing a home energy upgrade?
How do consumers/home owners know that they are getting a highly-qualified individual to work in their home?
Just as many other fast-growing industries have recognized a need for professional certification/standardization;
It has become increasingly apparent that the home energy professional industry is demonstrating this need as well.
The Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals project, is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Energy and the home energy upgrade industry, designed to address these concerns.
This partnership leverages 30+ years of DOE weatherization experience, as well as extensive industry effort to ensure a high level of quality and efficiency for all parties involved.
So who exactly is involved?
Well, the Guidelines project distinguishes four main groups:
Weatherization and Home Energy Professionals

the Home Energy Upgrade Industry
Weatherization and Home Energy Training Providers
And last but not least, the Consumers.
Each of the groups gain to benefit from this project in the following ways:
<p>Trained and certified workers have a competitive edge in the marketplace.</p> <p>Consumers perceive certifications as an assurance of quality and certified workers become sought after employees as jobs arise.</p>
Home energy upgrade programs and contractors nationwide can choose to increase their quality of work, reduce call backs, and improve profitability.
<p>Home Energy guidelines identify what workers should learn and be capable of after training.</p> <p>Industry standards are stabilized and training providers are able implement tried and trusted curricula.</p>
Consumers can confidently select a home energy upgrade provider and know that the work will be completed thoroughly and correctly by trained and qualified professionals.
Sounds good; but what is the process?
<p>The Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals project consists of three main components:</p> <p>Guidelines for Quality Work Guidelines for Effective Training and Guidelines for Professional Certifications.</p>
Guidelines for Quality Work: These guidelines define the minimum requirements for high quality work and the conditions necessary to achieve the desired outcomes of a given energy upgrade.
<p>Guidelines for Effective Training: DOE and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) worked with leaders in the weatherization and home performance industry to perform Job Task Analyses (JTAs) for four energy upgrade jobs:</p> <p>Energy Auditor Retrofit Installer Technician Crew Leader and Quality Control Inspector</p>

Their findings identified the key tasks a worker performs to complete a given job and the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) the worker should possess to perform those tasks adequately.

The resulting JTAs and KSAs can then be used by industry training providers to successfully develop curricula and course content.

Guidelines for Professional Certifications: The industry-tested JTAs and KSAs are also fundamental to the development of certification examinations.

Certifying bodies are also encouraged to seek accreditation of their programs under the ISO 17024 standard, which provides a framework for the quality and rigor of a certification program.

In order to ensure that the Standard Work Specifications (developed under the Guidelines for Home Energy Project) meet prevailing industry/consumer needs, the development process entails multiple industry reviews and public comment periods.

This process was initiated in the Spring of 2010 and is scheduled for completion in 2012.

Currently, Standard Work Specifications are being developed for single family homes, multifamily homes, and manufactured housing.

In order to learn more about the status of this project and each stage of its development, please visit us online: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/retrofit_guidelines.html