



Better Buildings Residential Network Peer
Exchange Call:
*Commercial and Multi-family Building
Benchmarking and Disclosure*

Call Slides

July 25, 2013

- Call Logistics and Introductions
- Introducing the Better Buildings Residential Network
- Discussion:
 - What energy benchmarking policies/requirements/ordinances are in place across the country?
 - Are policies on building disclosure of energy use creating momentum/driving demand in the marketplace for energy audits and retrofits?
 - How are programs using benchmarking data to target energy efficiency work?
 - Other questions/issues related to commercial and multi-family building benchmarking and disclosure?
- Future Call Topics

Participating Programs and Organizations



- Bellingham, WA
- Chicago, IL
- Kansas City, MO
- Portland, OR
- Maine
- St. Lucie County, FL
- Virginia
- Washington
- BKi
- City and County of Durham, NC
- National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
- PG&E



RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

Better Buildings Residential Network: Connects energy efficiency programs and partners to share best practices to dramatically increase the number of American homes that are energy efficient.

Membership: Open to organizations committed to accelerating the pace of existing residential upgrades. Grantees choose to join.

Benefits:

- Peer Exchange Calls
- Tools, templates, & resources
- Newsletter updates on trends
- Recognition: Media, materials
- Optional benchmarking
- Residential Solutions Center

Commitment: Provide DOE with annual number of residential upgrades, and information about benefits associated with them.



RESIDENTIAL NETWORK

Inaugural Members:



AFC First



Austin Energy



Boulder County



Clean Energy Durham



Clean Energy Works



CNT Energy



City & County of Denver



GTECH Strategies



Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP)



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Michigan Saves



Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED)



New York State Energy Research & Development Authority

For information & to join, email bbresidentialnetwork@ee.doe.gov

Discussion Questions

- What energy benchmarking policies/requirements/ordinances are in place across the country?
- Are policies on building disclosure of energy use creating momentum/driving demand in the marketplace for energy audits and retrofits?
- How are programs using benchmarking data to target energy efficiency work?
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Lessons Learned: Maine

- Maine has a program specifically for multi-family buildings. Their benchmarking program has evolved over time with the main goals of providing a pre-estimate for contractors, auditors, and building owners.
- Benchmarking is either conducted by a program partner with information from the building owner and utility or by the customer. The building owner can use a paperless, online application that goes to the program to run the data through the benchmarking tool and establish an account in Energy Star Portfolio Manager.
- Benchmarking information from Portfolio Manager includes building-specific data and national and local comparisons.

Challenges and Strategies

- Benchmark reports lead to questions from building owners about how to get started.
- Maine developed door hangers and other materials to advertise their program to tenants to help get buy-in for providing utility data that could be used in the benchmarks. This provided credibility to the owners' requests.
- Maine looks at buildings as a whole versus individual units. They are able to model the whole building using a subset of the units' information, if needed, with information for each type of unit (e.g., data from a one bedroom, two bedroom).
- Maine provides an incentive to building owners for implementing measures with a projected 20% energy savings.

Benefits of Benchmarking

- Benchmarking provides meaningful information and education for business owners to be able to see that improvements can be made that will impact their bottom line.
- Many programs are using Portfolio Manager to benchmark buildings which then allows for tracking savings over time. This also allows programs to show owners how their businesses compare both in their local area, state, and nationally.

Benchmarking Policies

- Portland is currently working to gain the political support for benchmarking and disclosure measures. They are looking at cities who have successfully implemented this as a model.
 - www.buildingrating.org is a resource for cities looking to do this.
- California is very focused on commercial benchmarking and not explicitly multi-family, but many cities there are starting to look at this sector.
- The City of Chicago is in the process of passing benchmarking legislation. The ordinance will primarily target large commercial business buildings. Data will need to be verified by a licensed engineer and reported through Portfolio Manager. After the first year, individual building information will become publically available.

- Upcoming 2013 Peer Exchange Call Topics:
 - August 8 (3-4:30 PM ET): Commercial - Strategies for Engaging Small Businesses and Not-For-Profits
 - August 22 (12:30 – 2:00 ET): Multi-family/Low Income - Strengthening Relationships between Energy Programs and Housing Programs
 - September 12 (3-4:30 PM ET): Commercial - Small Commercial: Moving Beyond Single-Measures (e.g., Lighting) for Deeper Upgrades
 - November 21 (12:30 – 2:00 ET): Data and Evaluation - Program Automation