

RESNET Notes

June 2008

Building Energy Efficiency Policy Principals Adopted

At its annual meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland, the leaders of the world's industrial nations (the **G8**) adopted a climate change action plan aimed at improving energy efficiency and accelerating the deployment of new clean energy technologies. The G8 commissioned the **International Energy Agency** (IEA) to develop a set of policy recommendations for the G8 to consider. At the G8 meeting in Heiligendamm, Germany, all leaders, including President Bush, endorsed 12 energy efficiency policies which each member state has pledged to undertake.

The first priority was improving the energy efficiency of buildings. The building energy efficiency policies endorsed are:

Action to Strengthen the Energy Efficiency Requirements of Building Energy Codes – The G8 nations agreed to strengthen energy codes. Most significantly, the nations would adopt an economic calculation that would optimize total energy cost over a 30 year lifetime. This is significant, because the cost effectiveness of most building energy efficiency measures would be considerably enhanced with a 30 year total cost analysis.

Promotion of Low Energy Buildings – The G8 leaders agreed to a policy that will use zero energy (“Passive House”) buildings as the benchmark energy standard in future updates of their energy codes. The governments pledged to set goals for the market share of such buildings for all new construction by 2020.

Improving the Energy Performance of Existing Buildings - The G8 leaders agreed that member governments should systematically collect information on energy efficiency in existing buildings and on barriers to energy efficiency. Standardized indicators should also be calculated for energy efficiency in buildings for international comparison, monitoring and selection of best practices. Based on this information, governments should construct a package of initiatives to address the most important barriers to energy efficiency in buildings. This package should set standards to ensure that energy efficiency improvements are achieved during the refurbishment of all buildings.

To download the energy efficiency policies endorsed by the G8 go to www.iea.org/G8/docs/final_recommendations_heiligendamm.pdf

Led by the RESNET and the IEA, a round table of energy advocacy organizations was held in March 2008 to discuss the implications of the G8 policy initiative. Organizations represented included the **Natural Resources Defense Council, Alliance to Save Energy, Energy Efficient Codes Coalition, Building Codes Assistance Project, Institute for Market Transformation, Florida Solar Energy Center**, and the **North American Insulation Manufacturers Association**.

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Building Energy Efficiency Policy Continued ...

The roundtable has developed a set of principals for policy advocacy for the new President's Administration and Congress. The principals adopted by the group are:

The federal government should increase transparency in building energy efficiency and promote energy efficiency improvements at the time of sale or change of occupancy, including requiring uniform labeling of the energy efficiency of all buildings at the time of sale or change of occupancy.

The federal government should support (and to the degree possible require) the adoption, implementation and effective enforcement by states and local jurisdictions of energy codes that meet or exceed the minimum requirements of the most recent version of the IECC, ASHRAE 90.1 or other relevant model energy code.

Building energy codes should be strengthened to maximize energy efficiency and minimize energy costs over the useful life of a building such that the total costs of buildings are minimized over at least a 30-year lifetime.

The federal government should adopt policies that set goals for and spur the rapid development of net zero energy buildings in the market by 2020.

Net zero energy buildings should serve as the ultimate benchmark goal for future upgrades of building energy codes.

The federal government should identify the barriers to improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings and adopt policies to overcome these barriers, including, at a minimum, mandatory labeling, tax credits and other incentives, and mandatory requirements applicable to obtaining financing from entities related to the federal government.

EPA Notification of Change to ENERGY STAR for Homes



Sam Rashkin of the **Environmental Protection Agency** has announced an important policy decision regarding the **Thermal Bypass Checklist** (TBC) for **ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes**. Item number 3, floors between conditioned and exterior spaces. The change "was scheduled for a change July 1, 2008 that would require insulation be aligned with both the top- and bottom-side air barriers (e.g., sub-floor and ceiling). However, your members brought forward significant issues concerning the energy benefit from this requirement. The ENERGY STAR for Homes technical team contacted building science experts across the country who confirmed there were reasonable concerns with the technical underpinnings involved in this requirement. As a result, EPA has responded by cancelling the forthcoming requirement for top- and bottom-side alignment and adding specifications to ensure insulation top-side alignment. This is an example where cooperation with your members has helped EPA improve the critical value proposition for ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes."

RESNET Notes

NAHB Research Center Recognizes RESNET Green Raters for Green Building Verification



The **National Association of Home Builders** (NAHB) requires that in order for a home to be certified under NAHB's **Green Building Program**, a **Green Building Verifier** accredited by the **NAHB Research Center** must verify that the home meets the NAHB standard.

RESNET and the NAHB Research Center has reached an agreement that home energy raters certified as RESNET Green Raters will be recognized as meeting the eligibility pre-requisites required to be a certified NAHB Green Building Verifier. The added requirements to be a NAHB Green Verifier is to complete a verification procedures training session conducted by the NAHB Research Center and pass a test administered by the NAHB Research Center.

For more information on how to become a NAHB Green Building Verifier go to www.nahbgreen.org/Certification/becomeverifier.aspx

Texas Home Energy Raters Organization Formally Endorses RESNET



The **Texas Home Energy Raters Organization (HERO) Board of Directors** unanimously passed a resolution on May 21, 2008 to expressly support RESNET and the existing RESNET Energy Star Oversight Process. In a letter of support of RESNET, the Texas HERO Board cited the following as rationale for this position:

1. An additional oversight organization would fragment the rating industry's collective effort, disrupt organizational development and alter established revenue streams.
2. Adding additional oversight organizations would weaken RESNET and adversely impact the entire industry.
3. If a new organization did succeed on a national basis, much of that growth would likely be at the expense of RESNET rather than by organic growth of the industry.
4. Texas HERO believes that the rating industry and its clients would derive more benefit from remaining united.

In a letter to RESNET and the EPA, the Texas HERO Board of Directors stated: "The energy-rating world is burgeoning with opportunity. At the same time, we also stand on a precipice and could easily slip into irrelevance. There is a symbiotic relationship between the ENERGY STAR® for New Homes Program, the rating community and home builders. We must continue to develop alignment between our collective goals and objectives and seek the success in areas that make business and public policy sense."

RESNET Notes

RESNET Enters into Memorandum of Understanding with Eco Brokers



EcoBroker is a program designed to take advantage of and encourage energy efficiency and sustainable design in real estate properties. Through EcoBroker educational courses, real estate professionals acquire the knowledge and resources to become Certified EcoBrokers and assist clients in their pursuit of

properties with green features and marketing of properties with green features. The Company serves real estate professionals, vendors, and the community by carrying out its mission to improve the quality of buildings, while reducing their impact on our natural resources and environment. Real estate, energy, environmental, educational, marketing, and information technology specialists comprise the core of the EcoBroker Team.

The program has certified 3,500 real estate agents from across the nation. The program is administered by the **Association of Energy and Environmental Real Estate Professionals (AEEREP)**.

On May 28, 2008 RESNET and AEEREP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The purpose of the MOU is to expand the collaboration of both organizations and strategic implementation strategies. The strategies would include:

The joint education of certified energy raters and EcoBroker real estate agents on business and consumer opportunities,

Development of a plan of action using the internet and other communication channels enabling members of RESNET and the EcoBrokers to easily locate each other at the local level,

Promote RESNET's rater members partnering with EcoBrokers to serve their clients,

To provide tools for raters to offer EcoBrokers; clients, rating services for new and existing homes and access to consumer financing and retrofit contracting services

It is expected that the agreement will expand the scope of rater services to include inspection and testing of existing homes at the time of sale and create a dynamic partnership with the real estate community.

For more information on the EcoBroker program visit their web site at www.ecobroker.com

To download the MOU, go to www.resnet.us/hotnews/AEEREP_Agreement.pdf

The Residential Energy Services Network's (RESNET) mission is to ensure the success of the building energy performance certification industry, set the standards of quality, and increase the opportunity for ownership of high performance buildings.

RESNET Notes

RESNET Releases Request for Qualifications for Infrared Inspections of ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes in Targeted Housing Markets



The Residential Energy Services Network, Inc. (RESNET) is seeking a consultant to conduct infrared inspections on ENERGY STAR labeled homes in targeted housing markets. The purpose of the inspections is to document how effectively ENERGY STAR labeled homes comply with the Thermal Bypass Inspection Checklist (TBC) developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of this RFQ is to solicit qualifications from contractors who have the infrared scanning equipment, training and experience necessary to complete the required inspections. Responses to this RFQ must document their capabilities to work with RESNET accredited rating providers in the targeted markets, properly set up the testing equipment, accurately complete the testing and prepare a report on their findings.

There may be more than one contractor selected through this RFQ.

For a copy of the RFQ e-mail Steve Baden at sbaden@resnet.us

The deadline for submitting a response is Friday, July 11, 2008.

RESNET Needs Your Input on Sessions to be Offered at the 2009 RESNET Building Performance Conference



The **2009 RESNET Building Performance** Conference will take place in exciting New Orleans on February 16 - 18, 2009. The theme of the 2009 RESNET Conference is "**Join the Parade.**" RESNET's goal is to make the annual conference a memorable learning experience for attendees.

RESNET is seeking nominations on sessions and presenters to be offered at the conference in New Orleans. The growing interest in the RESNET Conference is reflected in the number, diversity and quality of the sessions that were nominated in the past. To be a success in 2008, RESNET needs **your** ideas. The nominations offered by the RESNET network are the backbone of the RESNET's conference agenda.

To nominate sessions to be offered at the 2008 RESNET Conference, click on www.resnet.us/conference/2009/nominations. You are encouraged to submit more than a single session. Please complete one for each session being nominated. **The deadline for nominations is September 1, 2008.**

Energy Ministers of World's Leading Industrial Nations Launch Energy Efficiency Effort



Faced with record oil prices, the energy ministers from the Group of Eight (**G8**) industrialized countries and from **China, India, and South Korea** pledged to a new international energy efficiency framework that would include greater investments in energy efficiency.

The energy ministers adopted a declaration that found, *"that improving energy saving and energy efficiency is one of the quickest, greenest, and most cost-effective way to address energy security, climate change, and ensuring economic growth."*

The chief product of the meeting of the was an agreement to establish the **International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC)**. The IPEEC will serve as a high-level forum for facilitating a broad range of actions that yield significant gains in energy efficiency. The partnership will support the on-going energy efficiency work of the participating countries and relevant international organizations by exchanging information on best practices, policies, and efforts to collect data. The IPEEC members will also develop public-private partnerships for improving energy efficiency, participate in joint research and development efforts, and facilitate the dissemination of energy-related products and services.

The declaration adopted by the energy ministers is posted at www.energy.gov/media/IPEEC_declarationfinal_June082008.pdf

In a related development, RESNET Executive Director **Steve Baden** is serving on the **Organization for Economic Development (OECD) Global Sustainable Network Council**. The origination of the council was the Summit Declaration of the 2007 G8 Heiligendamm Summit which included, "Set up a sustainable buildings network involving the G8 and being open for participation of major emerging economies." In order to meet this, the OECD has convened a council of representatives of existing international sustainable building networks from the G8 and G5 nations.

At the meeting in the OECD headquarters in Paris, it was agreed that a new global network should be created that would include all relevant stakeholders involved in building energy efficiency in the 13 G8 and G5 nations. It was agreed that this new network would not compete with existing networks. The meeting adopted the following mission and vision statements,

"The mission of the sustainable buildings network be the reference portal at a global level for information on policy related issues with a specific focus on energy efficient buildings and renewable energy in buildings to improve the well-being of people through the development and dissemination of this knowledge.

The network vision is to become the global reference for information on policy related issues for energy efficient buildings and renewable energy in buildings.

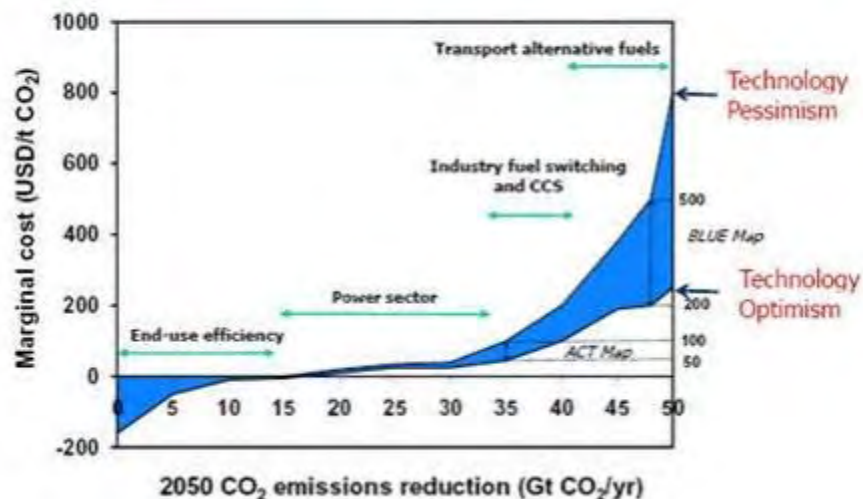
The network would achieve this by combining a strong political mandate, technical expertise and networking with advanced and innovative dissemination strategies."

International Energy Agency Finds Energy Efficiency Most Cost Effective Tool in Combating Climate Change

The International Energy Agency has released its latest edition of the "Energy Technology Perspectives" (ETP). The ETP is built upon a range of technology scenarios showing how CO₂ emissions could be brought back to current levels by 2050 and a set of scenarios how they could be reduced to 50% below current levels.

The recently released ETP states that Improving energy efficiency is the first step and is very attractive as it results in immediate cost savings. It found end-use efficiency as the most cost effective option and having an actual economic benefit (see chart in attached Word document).

Cost of Emissions Reductions



The report concludes that, "To bring CO₂ emissions back to current levels in 2050, all options are needed at a cost of up to \$50 per ton CO₂, according to the report. No single form of energy or technology can provide the full solution."

Join the Parade ...

2009 RESNET Building Performance Conference

February 16—18 , 2009

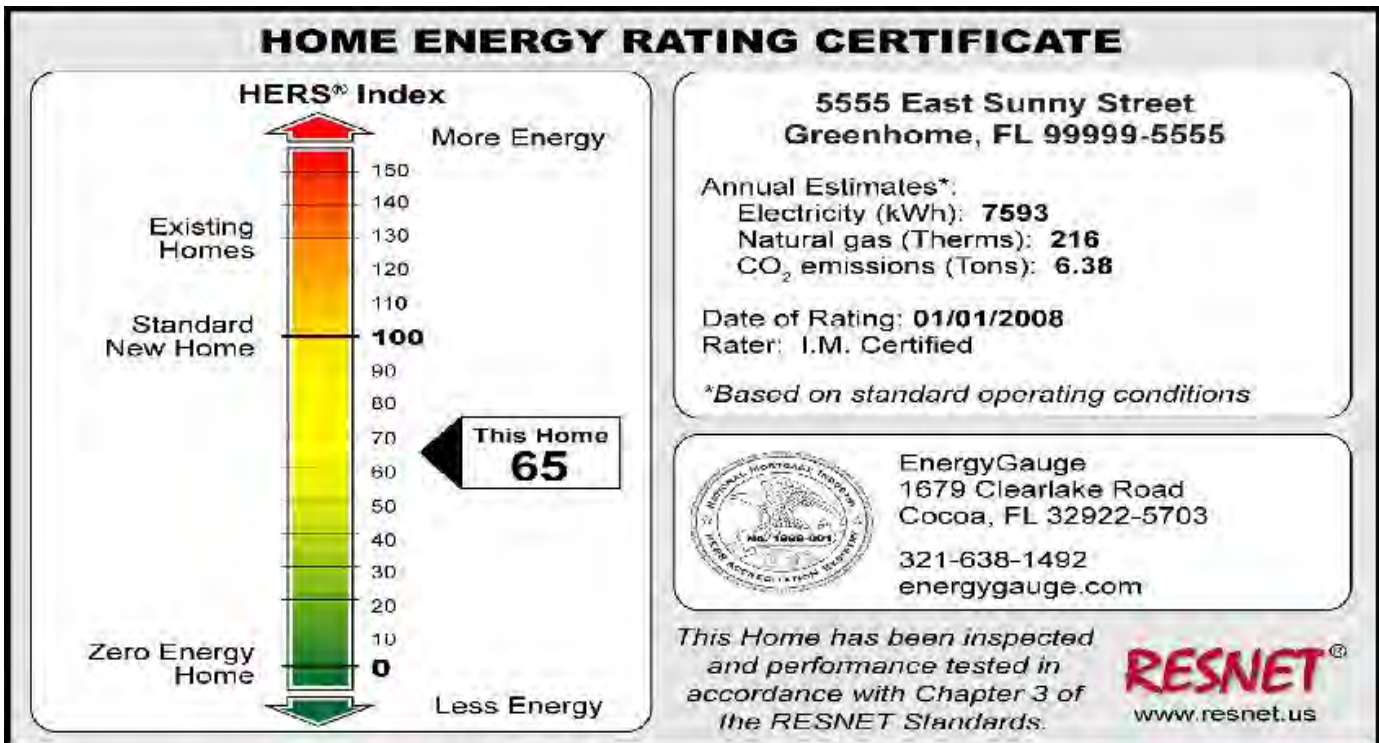
New Orleans, LA

www.resnet.us/conference

RESNET's New Label for Energy Rated Homes

RESNET's Rating Sampling Standard requires that a label must be posted on a home that is rated through the sampling standard that states, "This home has been certified using a sampling protocol in accordance with Chapter 6 of the RESNET Standards (see <http://resnet.us/standards/>)."

To assist raters in meeting this requirement, RESNET will be making HERS labels available for rating providers to have a home's energy rating posted on the home's circuit box.



The label will be pre-printed and the rating software program would enter the information for the rated home. The rater then will be able to print out the labels on their computer through the rating software program.

It is not mandatory that rating providers use the RESNET label. The only requirement is that sampled homes must include the disclosure label required in the national home energy rating standards.

The labels are currently being printed. When the labels are printed and the accredited rating software providers have released a revised version of their software program that includes the command for printing the label, RESNET will be taking orders from Rating Providers on the number of labels they will require. There will be no charge for ordering the labels.

RESNET's RESBlog: Your Opportunity to Plug Into the Building Performance Industry

RESBlog

The RESBlog is your opportunity to share your ideas and interact with others in the building performance industry online. Getting started couldn't be easier and it is free! Simply click on www.resnet.us/resblog/default.htm and join the community. You can post a blog on any topic of interest. Each entry you make is chronologically posted, with the most current on top. You can also post comments on any entry. Don't wait. Check it out and join the conversation today.

Important RESNET Rater Member Benefit

RESNET Insurance Program

Because of the nature of your business, it's critical that you protect yourself and your personal and business assets against the financial magnitude of legal liability allegations in the rendering of professional services. Whether as a result of an honest mistake or misunderstanding, unreasonable or unrealistic client expectations or a failure to communicate, such allegations can be financially devastating.

That's why RESNET offers access to the **RESNET Insurance Program** (Program administered by Lockton Risk Services) as an important member benefit. Through the program, RESNET members have the opportunity to get the professional liability insurance they need to protect themselves and their business. General Liability and Property coverages are also available at competitive rates that may not be available anywhere else.

For additional information about the program, visit www.locktonrisk.com/resnet. Electronic applications and online contact request forms are available for your convenience.

RESNET's Rater Members can Demonstrate Their Commitment to Quality Through the RESNET Rater Seal of Quality

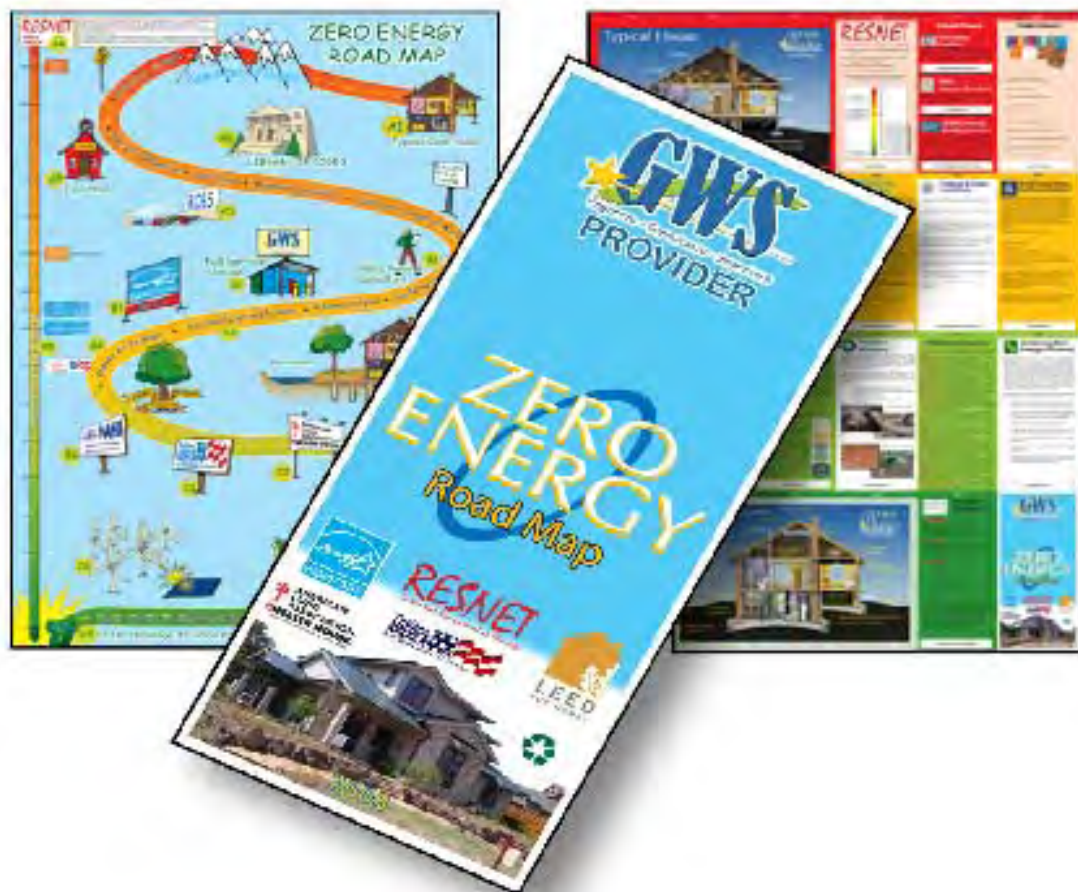


The **RESNET Rater Seal of Quality** recognizes rater members who subscribe to a high standard of quality and ethics. RESNET rater members can demonstrate their commitment to these principles by applying for the RESNET Rater Seal of Quality. RESNET will send these members the RESNET Rater Seal of Quality for use on any of their business marketing materials. In addition RESNET will post this seal next to their listing on the RESNET web site. To sign up for the RESNET Rater Seal of Quality go to www.resnet.us/rater/seal

RESNET Notes

New Road Map to Zero Energy Homes Published

Having difficulty describing **ENERGY STAR** and other green building programs? If you find that your builder/client is unfamiliar with green programs or energy efficient programs, then take a walk down the **GWS Roadmap®**. Start with a Typical Code House then ENERGY STAR - move along to the **Department of Energy's National Builder's Challenge**, **NAHB Green Building Program** and **LEED**. Finish your journey with an explanation of renewable energy and the **2030 Challenge**. Help explain energy efficient building step by step and the role that a Rater plays in validation and certification. As you get closer and closer to the goal of zero energy, see the HERS Index drop and teach builders about the benefits of using your services. The GWS Roadmap® even includes a spot for your personal logo next to the RATER. \$8.95 each (Discounts available to volume buyers and GWS Raters). For more information visit <http://www.gwssi.com/rm/rmap.html> or call Barbara at GWS - 888.488.0206.



RESNET Notes

15 Rating Companies Volunteered Their Services to RESNET's for Habitat for Humanity Program in May! – What Are You Waiting For?



More and more Habitat affiliates throughout the country are looking for raters to volunteer their services to label Habitat Homes ENERGY STAR. RESNET's Habitat for Humanity Program allows Habitat affiliates to find raters who have committed to providing free rating services in their area. By simply committing to provide free ratings, RESNET's Habitat for Humanity logo will be posted next to your name on the RESNET web site. The logo will also be available to you to use on your promotional materials and web site to show your commitment to improving the nations housing stock by volunteering your expertise. RESNET urges you to participate in this program.

If you are interested in volunteering for this program, check out our website at <http://www.resnet.us/rater/partnership/default.htm> or contact Claudia Brovick at cbrovick@resnet.us.

The following rater companies joined the RESNET Habitat for Humanity Program in May:

- o Headwaters Energy & Finance LLC, Buena Vista, CO
- o Evergreen Home Services, Manchester, MI
- o Veterans Energy Solutions, LLC, Miami, FL
- o Great Lakes Home Performance, Charlotte, MI
- o Professional Energy Consulting LLC, Burlington, KY
- o TerraLogos Green Home Services, Inc., Baltimore, MD
- o Home Energy and Repair Services Company, Inc., Ridgeland, MS
- o Home Energy Diagnostics, LLC, Covington, KY
- o Barnett & Associates, Inc., Evansville, IN
- o Environment, Safety and Health, LC, Hobe Sound, Florida
- o LaGrange Consulting, Madisonville, LA
- o Home Energy Performance Testing, Minot, ND
- o EcoTerra Enterprises, Inc., Santa Fe, NM
- o BUILDING WISDOM, Tallahassee, FL
- o Aspen Enterprises, Inc., Brandywine, MD