

# RESNET Notes

December 2009

## **President Obama Proposes Retrofit of Homes as Job Stimulus Legislation**



On December 8, 2009, **President Barack Obama** proposed a national home energy retrofit incentive program, **HOME STAR**, as part of a federal jobs creation initiative. Also dubbed 'Cash for Caulkers,' HOME STAR is designed to encourage homeowners to improve the energy performance of their homes in order to create more than 500,000 new jobs. The proposed program would provide \$23 billion in funding, \$18 billion for homeowner incentives, \$2 billion for quality assurance audits on efficiency projects and \$3 billion for retailer incentives and awareness-building activities. This initiative was proposed by the **President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board**. The **Los Angeles Times** reported that supporters of the initiative calculate About 5 million homes could be retrofitted under the program, saving homeowners a total of \$3.3 billion annually on energy bills.

The retrofit incentive is proposed to include two levels:

**“SILVER STAR Track”** – Under the SILVER STAR track, homeowners qualify for incentives based on a list of eligible measures with installations based on a set of basic quality standards. Measures include white insulating roofs, wall insulation, air sealing, weatherization, duct sealing, lighting and other energy efficiency “low-hanging fruit.” Purchase and installation of eligible measures will qualify for a matching payment from the government, ranging from two-hundred fifty dollars for a super-efficient appliance to as much as four thousand for the implementation of five or more efficiency measures.

**“GOLD STAR Track”** - The GOLD STAR track is a performance-based incentive that rewards actual, audited energy savings. It starts with an energy assessment prior to work that includes energy modeling to predict savings using accredited, specially trained contractors. After the work is complete, it undergoes third party quality assurance audits. Any combination of retrofit measures that results in a 20% reduction would be eligible for \$3,500 in incentives, with each additional 5% reduction achieving another \$1,500 in incentive.

In each case, the total Federal incentive cannot exceed 50% of the homeowner's contribution. Congress will have to appropriate the funds for the initiative.

:The energy efficiency alliance, Efficiency First has been very effective in introducing the concept of the initiative to the White House and Congress. RESNET is a member of Efficiency First.

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# RESNET Notes

## HOME STAR Continued ...

RESNET is working on incorporating its network of certified energy raters and auditors to provide the independent third party quality assurance verifications of the retrofit work.

In his address on Job Creation and Economic Growth at The Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., President Obama stated, "I'm calling on Congress to consider a new program to provide incentives for consumers who retrofit their homes to become more energy-efficient, which we know creates jobs, saves money for families, and reduces the pollution that threatens our environment."

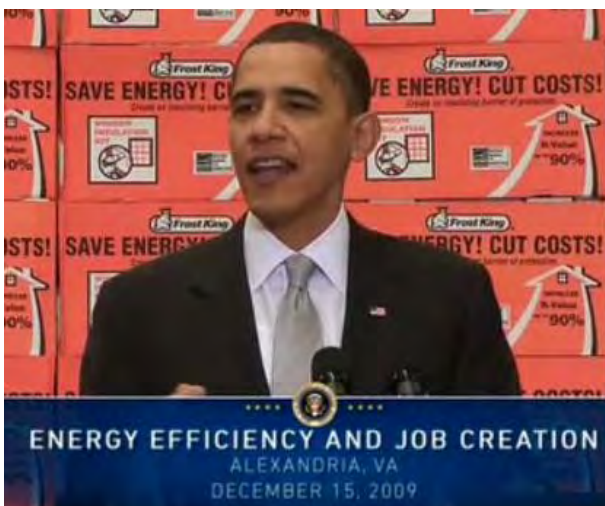
Republicans are critical of a HOME STAR program. They said the cash-for-clunkers program paid money mostly to people who intended to buy cars anyway and argued that \$5 billion in weatherization funds in the \$787-billion economic stimulus package passed in February hasn't helped reduce unemployment.

There will be a special session on the proposal at the 2010 RESNET Building Performance Conference that will explore the implications for the building performance industry.

To download the President's address on Job Creation and Economic Growth go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/091204-PERAB-Home-Retrofits-Memo-Final.pdf>

To view the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board proposal go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/091204-PERAB-Home-Retrofits-Memo-Final.pdf>

## ***President Finds Retofits and Insulation "Sexy Stuff"***



Looking for new ways to boost the job market, President Obama is pressing Congress to provide money to homeowners to improve energy efficiency -- and the job market. On December 15, 2009, the President made an appearance at a Home Depot in Northern Virginia along with members of Congress and the media.

At the event the President stated, "From the moment we took office ... we began investing in newer, stronger foundations for lasting growth. One that would free us from the cycle of boom and bust that has been so painful. One that would create good jobs and opportunities for a growing middle class. Clean energy can be a powerful engine for that kind of growth."

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## Obama Pushes Retrofits for Jobs Continued ...

"The simple act of retro-fitting"" - installing new windows, doors, cooling and heating equipment, etc. - "is one of the fastest, easiest and cheapest things we can do to put Americans back to work while saving money and reducing harmful emissions," Obama continued. The President said he thinks energy efficiency and retrofitting are "sexy." "I know the idea may not be very glamorous, although I get pretty excited about it," Obama said. "Insulation is sexy stuff," he added. "Here's what's sexy about it: saving money."

## Results of 2009 RESNET Board of Directors Election



RESNET By-Laws requires that half of the board stand for re-election annually. The following individuals were elected in the **2009 RESNET Board of Directors Election:**

- Steve Byers (incumbent)
- Dennis Creech (incumbent)
- Lance DeLaura (new)
- Brett Dillon (new)
- Richard Faesy (incumbent)
- Philip Fairy (incumbent)
- Andy Gordon (incumbent)
- Maci McDaniel (new)
- Lee O'Neal (incumbent)
- Bill Prindle (incumbent)
- L. Javier Ruiz (new)
- Orlo Stitt (new)
- Greg Thomas (new)

There was a tie between **Rick Davenport** and **Greg Nahn** for a rating provider representative and a run off vote is taking place. If you are a rating provider and not have received your run off ballot, please contact Steve Baden at [sbaden@resnet.us](mailto:sbaden@resnet.us)

RESNET Executive Director **Steve Baden** lauded the board members whose terms expire on December 31, 2009. "**Bruce Harley, Tom Hamilton, C.T. Loyd, Robert Scott, Erin Wiggins and David Wilson** have made remarkable contributions to the growth of RESNET during their service on the board. They have helped position the organization where it stands today. RESNET is fortunate

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## 2009 Board Election Continued ...

that we will retain the leadership of Bruce Harley through his membership in the RESNET Technical Committee, C.T. Loyd and Erin Wiggins in the RESNET Quality Assurance and Ethics Committee and David Wilson in the RESNET Training and Education Committee.”

To view the results of the 2009 RESNET Board election go to

[www.resnet.us/hotnews/results\\_of\\_Voting\\_on\\_RESNET\\_Board\\_of\\_Directors.pdf](http://www.resnet.us/hotnews/results_of_Voting_on_RESNET_Board_of_Directors.pdf)

## ***RESNET Welcomes Six New Members to the RESNET Board of Directors***

### **Lane DeLaura, Sempra Energy Utilities (Southern California Gas Company/San Diego Gas and Electric Company)**

During his 18 years with the company, Lance DeLaura has held positions of increasing responsibility in the areas of new construction, products and services, residential rebate programs and national codes and standards. Recently, DeLaura was recently promoted to a position where he leads the company's efforts in strategic planning for energy efficiency, demand response and codes, and standards at the portfolio level for both utility companies. Prior to working in the energy industry, DeLaura worked in the home building industry in Colorado and California. Lance DeLaura is an active member of the ***American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)*** and serves in leadership roles on various committees including ***Green Building Standards, Indoor Air Quality, Water Heating and Distribution Systems***. He leads efforts for research on improved commercial water distribution systems for ASHRAE. DeLaura is active with the ***American Council for and Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)*** serving as host of several national forums on efficient water heating. Lance DeLaura is a member of the ***American Gas Association Building Energy Codes and Standards Committee (BECS)*** and serves as the chairman of the Indoor Air Quality Taskforce and is a member of the Executive Committee for BECS. He serves as a member of the ***American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z21/83*** committee for codes and standards. Lance is the President of the ***California Home Energy Efficiency Rating Services (CHEERS)*** board of directors. CHEERS is a California HERS provider.

### **Brett Dillon, IBS Advisors**

Currently the Managing Director of IBS Advisors, LLC, Brett Dillon has years of experience working both as a rater and a rater trainer. The training programs he has developed are hallmarked by innovative design and delivery modes, consistently receiving high marks from attendees. These training programs also produce higher than average success rates on the National Core Competency exams for the field inspector and rater. A past technical director for ***Texas HERO***, Brett oversaw the development of the comprehensive home energy audit standard for Texas that was accredited by the RESNET Board of Directors. Brett has served on the Advanced Rater Task Force, the Existing Homes Task Force and currently serves on the Training and Education Committee for RESNET.

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## New RESNET Board Members Continued ...

### **Maci McDaniel, Fox Energy Specialists**

Maci has been involved with RESNET and the Home Energy Ratings industry since 2001. She has worked with builders, developers, municipalities and homeowners across the country to inspect and verify more than 50,000 homes. She has been responsible for winning six Energy Star Partner of the Year Awards for her firm and builder clients. McDaniel's responsibilities include sales, strategic positioning, building performance consulting, account management; construction training for builders and subcontractors; sales and realtor training, and promotion of Energy Efficient Mortgages to builders and homeowners. She also works with State Agencies, Municipalities and Utility programs on the implementation of above code programs as a tool for carbon emission reduction and utilities demand side management programs. McDaniel serves as a select member of two task force committees with the **Texas A&M Energy Systems Laboratory** and the **City of Houston** to adopt/accept HERS ratings and the Energy Star Program in the State of Texas and Municipality Implementation and evaluate new versions of the IECC for adoption. She is serving her second term as a Board Member and Secretary for the **Texas Home Energy Raters Organization** (HERO) and is the Chair Person for the **Greater Houston Builders Association Green Building Committee**. She is an active participant in the development and implementation of several Green Building Programs across Texas and has been instrumental in positioning HERS ratings into those program requirements. Prior to working in the HERS Industry, McDaniel served as Marketing and Business Development Director for several National Architecture /Engineering Firms for over 15 years. She has also served in several Board of Directors positions for other professional and charitable organizations including the Society for Marketing Professional Services and Casa De Esperanza de Los Ninos.

### **L. Javier Ruiz, Southwest Home Energy Ratings**

Luis Javier Ruiz –LEED AP, Energy-Green Rater and Co-founder of SENERCON (4 times Energy Star Partner of the Year and recipient of the 2009 RESNET Market Transformation Award) has been in the Energy Efficiency industry and Green Building Consulting since 2004. Ruiz, has been a presenter and trainer on Green Building and Energy Conservation in different conferences. He currently serves on the **Board of the local NAHB Chapter**, is the Founder and Chair of the **Desert –Green Build Council of the El Paso Association of Builders**, and serves as the **Residential Green Building Advocate for the local USGBC Chapter**. In addition, he is the Co-founder of new startup Renewable Energy Company (Border Solar) and counts with NABCEP COK Certificate.

### **Orlo Stitt, Stitt Energy Systems**

Orlo Stitt is the founder and president of Stitt Energy Systems, Inc., which has been designing and building energy efficient custom homes since 1978. Stitt Energy is committed to building environmentally sustainable, 100% Energy Star homes and has won 18 **NAHB Research Center's EnergyValue Housing Awards** including EnergyValue Builder of the year and the Peoples' Choice Award. Orlo built his first passive solar home in 1971 in Village Soleil, a Canadian subdivision he developed. He now lives with his wife Mary in a near-zero energy home in South Sun Estates, an energy planned and sustainable subdivision he developed on Beaver Lake near Rogers, Arkansas. He is a past President of **Northwest Arkansas Home Builders' Association** and has taught seminars

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## New RESNET Board Members Continued ...

on energy efficiency and published and presented technical papers locally and nationally. Oro has previously served as chair of the **Energy Rated Homes of Arkansas** Board of Directors and is a certified rater under the Energy and Environmental Rating Alliance.

### Greg Thomas, Performance Systems Development

Gregory Thomas has thirty years experience in building performance as a consultant, trainer, heating contractor, home performance contractor, director of an energy service company, energy and green building conference planner, as well as an energy program designer, implementer, and energy software developer. Thomas began his career by building a blower door and offering whole house audits in 1979. Greg was the first blower door trainer for the low income weatherization programs in Pennsylvania and New York. He is past president of **Affordable Comfort Inc.**, the residential existing homes energy efficiency conference and served on the Affordable Comfort board for over 15 years. He is currently is on the board of Efficiency First, the home performance contractor trade association. He was the founder of the **Building Performance Contractors Association of New York**. He has been educational program director for a number of national and international conferences, including the USGBC Greenbuild Expo, the Financing Residential Energy Efficiency Conference, and the international Sustainable Steel Conference. He is the **ACEEE 2009 Summer Study** residential program design track co-chair.

## EnergyInsights Software Program Accredited by RESNET as Rating Software Tool

**APOGEE Interactive, Inc.**'s EnergyInsights software program has been accredited by RESNET to calculate home energy ratings. EnergyInsights have passed the suite of software that RESNET has developed through the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

The software tests includes:

- BESTEST Tier 1
- HERS Reference Home Rating Software Auto-Generation Test
- HERS Method Test
- HVAC Tests
- Duct Distribution Efficiency (DSE) Tests
- Hot Water System Performance Tests

EnergyInsights is the first accredited rating program that is web based. For more information about the program visit the APOGEE web site at [www.apogee.net](http://www.apogee.net)

For information of having a rating software program accredited go to [www.resnet.us/programs/software/become](http://www.resnet.us/programs/software/become)

***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. For more information e-mail RESNET at [info@resnet.us](mailto:info@resnet.us). Visit RESNET's web site at: [www.resnet.us](http://www.resnet.us)***

## ***Efficiency 2.0 On-Line Home Energy Survey Tool Approved by RESNET***

An On-Line Home Energy Survey is a basic review of a home using an internet-based tool or software. The On-Line Home Energy Survey collects the same data and information and is subject to the same limitations as the In-Home Energy Survey. The on-line energy survey developed by Efficiency 2.0, LLC is the first on-line home energy survey approved by RESNET. For more information on on-line home energy surveys go to [www.resnet.us/audit](http://www.resnet.us/audit)

## ***2010 RESNET Building Performance Conference Agenda and Session Descriptions Posted***



RESNET has posted the agenda and description of sessions that will be offered at the 2010 RESNET Conference. To view the agenda and session descriptions click on

[www.resnet.us/conference/2010/2010\\_RESNET\\_Conference\\_Agenda.pdf](http://www.resnet.us/conference/2010/2010_RESNET_Conference_Agenda.pdf)

## ***2010 RESNET Conference to Offer Certification Training***

A special feature of the 2010 RESNET Building Performance Conference is rater certification training. The following certification programs will be offered:

### **LEED for Homes Green Rater Certification Training**

February 20 – 21, 2009

Presenters: LEED for Homes Green Rater Faculty

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.- Capital Ballroom F

### **NAHB Research Center Accredited Green Verifiers for the National Green Certification Program Training**

Presenters: Bob Hill, NAHB Research Center

Sunday, February 21 - 9:00 a.m. – Noon – Capital Ballroom D

### **WaterSense® New Homes Certification Provider Training**

Presenter: Kim Wagoner, Eastern Research Group

Sunday, February 21 - 1:30 – 5:00 p.m. – Capital Ballroom D

### **Building Science Masters Certification Training Session**

Sponsored by Environments for Living

Presenter: John Tooley, Advanced Energy

February 22 – 24 – 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Sandalwood

## Hands-On Field Training Offered at the 2010 RESNET Conference



On Sunday, February 22 two field training opportunities will be offered at the 2010 RESNET Conference. The hands-on training opportunities are:

### **Hands-on Expert Training on Blower Door and Duct Leakage Testing and Infrared Scanning**

Instructors: Gary Nelson, The Energy Conservatory and Brett Monroe, Monroe Infrared Technology

8:00 a.m. – Noon

A unique opportunity to learn from Gary Nelson of The Energy Conservatory and Brett Monroe of Monroe Infrared Technology experts. This performance testing in-field training session will demonstrate and discuss field techniques for using diagnostic tools to evaluate the thermal performance of buildings. Using a blower door and IR camera to distinguish among insulation, air leakage, and moisture problems will be discussed. Attendees are encouraged to come with questions and topics they would like to see addressed. There will be transportation from the conference hotel to the home.

### **Field and Class Room Combustion Safety Testing Training - A Raters Perspective**

Instructor: Scott Suddreth, Building Performance Engineering

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Capital Ballroom E

Come out into the field with one of NC's own raters who is also a BPI Trainer/Proctor to see what all the fuss is about with combustion safety. This half day training will involve a two hour presentation on combustion safety and then a two hour demonstration of how combustion safety testing is performed. Elements to be discussed include BPI's Building Airflow Standard (their building tightness limit protocol), Carbon Monoxide Testing, Gas Leak Detection, Spillage Testing, Draft Testing, and Worst Case Depressurization scenarios. This class is by no means a comprehensive training but more of an overview of combustion safety and how it relates to raters. BPE, who has been a rating organization as well as a provider for several years understands how these two markets (new and existing) correlate and how raters should prepare to be successful in both

Registration is required in advance for these sessions. **Registration for this event is limited and first-come-first-served. Registration for each event is limited to ten.** So register early. When the final agenda is posted it will include an link for online registration. You need to arrive at the conference registration desk at 7:45 am for transportation to the site.

# RESNET Notes

## Reserve Your Conference Hotel Room Now to Get RESNET Conference Discount



RESNET has arranged a special conference hotel room rate of \$129 per night if you make your room reservations by January 18, 2010. Reserve your room now by clicking on <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/RDUNHHF-RES-20100217/index.jhtml>. Be sure to enter the RESNET Conference group code RES. If you have any difficulty with your reservation please contact Vincent Washington of the Hilton North

Raleigh Hotel at 919-719-4938 or [vincent.washington@hilton.com](mailto:vincent.washington@hilton.com).

## Remember—January 18, 2010 Deadline for RESNET Conference “Early Bird” Registration Discount

In order to take advantage of the 2010 RESNET “Early Bird” registration discount you must register by January 18, 2010. After that date, the conference registration increases by \$100. Register for the conference today online at [www.resnet.us/conference/2010/registration](http://www.resnet.us/conference/2010/registration)

## RESNET Conference Exhibit Space Filling Fast –Reserve Your Space Now

The 2010 RESNET Building Performance Conference offers your organization an unique opportunity to connect with the national leaders in the building performance industry by becoming a conference exhibitor. Registration costs \$800 which includes a conference exhibit booth and one complimentary conference registration. Reserve your space before space is filled by clicking on <https://www.resnet.us/conference/registration/default.aspx?ConferenceID=2&RegistrationTypeID=2>

## RESNET Now Accepting Applications for the WaterSense Program



RESNET is working with the EPA to ensure that licensed certification providers are trained on how to certify new homes and that WaterSense labeled home inspections have been verified by a trained quality assurance professional. RESNET is providing oversight to ensure that a network of inspectors, quality assurance professionals, and licensed certification providers are in place to support the certification of thousands of WaterSense labeled new homes. This third-party certification process ensures that WaterSense labeled new homes will meet EPA’s efficiency and performance criteria.

providers are in place to support the certification of thousands of WaterSense labeled new homes. This third-party certification process ensures that WaterSense labeled new homes will meet EPA’s efficiency and performance criteria.

A WaterSense provider training course will take place at the RESNET Conference on February 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be a four hour pre-conference session. RESNET Accredited Rating Providers interested in applying to the WaterSense specification should contact Laurel Elam at [laurel@resnet.us](mailto:laurel@resnet.us) for information

## **RESNET Executive Director Steve Baden Addresses Russian Conference on Sustainable Buildings**



RESNET Executive Director **Steve Baden** addressed the **Energy Efficient Engineering Systems in Buildings and Construction Conference** held in Moscow, Russia on November 17 & 18, 2009. The conference was hosted by the **Russian Duma**, the **Russian Ministry of Education and Science**, the **Russian Federal Agency for Science and Innovation**, and the **Russian Ministry of Energy**. The gathering was organized by the **International Energy Agency**.

The conference was convened to support Russia's new comprehensive energy efficiency program. As part of its climate change policy, Russian President **Dmitry Medvedev** set a goal to reduce its energy consumption in buildings from its 2007 levels by 40% by 2020. The Russian parliament, the Duma, is in the final process of enacting legislation that would implement the policy. The legislation would allocate 850 billion rubles (\$29.5 billion U.S. dollars) for the retrofitting of buildings. The conference featured best practices in building energy efficiency selected by the International Energy Agency from the countries of Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States. RESNET was the American program selected by the International Energy Agency. Steve Baden presented the RESNET HERS Index, RESNET's home energy rating standards and a summary of the policy initiatives being supported by the Obama Administration and Congress.

Russia will have some great challenges in meeting its commitments. The heating systems dating from the centralized Soviet period are not well maintained and inefficient. During the Soviet period, energy was subsidized by the central government and there were no incentives for improved performance. According to the Russian presenters, there is not even energy use data to effectively create a baseline of building energy use. There have been pilot efforts to improve the performance of the district heating systems that have been funded by the Support Fund for Reforming the Russian Residential and Utilities through support of international organizations as the World Bank and the United Nations in Moscow, Irkutsk, Voronezh and Chelyabinsk. These pilot efforts, however, have not created the infrastructure nor the programmatic experience to deliver the scale of programs that will be required by the new Russian energy policy.

After the RESNET presentation, the representative of the Russian architects, **Alexander Navmov** commented that, "the Russian architectural community needed to take the model from the U.S. and create private sector self-regulated organizations to create the standards and certification of the energy performance of buildings." The conference concluded with **G.A. Smaga**, Manager of the Standards and Labeling for Energy Efficiency in Russia Project stating that the examples of presented by the best practices from outside of Russia will serve as a useful building block to meeting the Russian building performance challenge.

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## Russian Conference on Sustainable Buildings ...

If the Russian policy proves successful in moving past these barriers, it may spawn partnerships with U.S. rating firms with northern building science backgrounds. There will be significant money invested in improving building performance and Russian companies and organizations will be looking for consulting services for successful program delivery experience. Another favorable trend is that as a Russian middle class emerges, there is a move from Soviet era high rise apartment flats to townhouses in the city of Moscow and single family homes in the suburbs, which look and operate similarly to their northern climate American counterparts. As Russia launches its program there could well be an opportunity for American companies to work with their Russian counterparts in rating single family and town house homes.



New Town Houses and High Rise Condos in Moscow (Steve Baden photo)