

2012 RESNET Priorities

Adopted by the RESNET Board of Directors October 11, 2011

- **Tap the Retrofit Market** – Seventy-five percent of the buildings that will exist in the United States in the year 2050 have already been built. Clearly, if the U.S. is to meet its energy and climate goals, the energy performance of existing homes must be improved. In 2011 RESNET created the infrastructure and business model that will link certified RESNET home energy raters and auditors with contractors to create “RESNET Energy Smart Home Performance Teams”. These teams link home energy raters with RESNET Energy Smart Contractors to make comprehensive upgrades to the energy performance of a home. The effort will include a test in and development of a scope of work by a home energy rater, installation of improvements by a RESNET Energy Smart Contractor and an independent post improvement quality assurance inspection and test out by a certified rater on 100% of all improvements. A growing number of utilities and local governments are adopting home energy retrofit programs. In 2012 RESNET will make a concerted effort to educate these organizations on the benefits of the RESNET Energy Smart Home Performance Teams and have their programs recognize them.
- **Continue to Mainstream the RESNET HERS Index in the Housing Market** – A significant emerging trend in the new homes market is homebuilders differentiating their homes by their improved energy performance over the less expensive existing homes in the market. Following the example set by the leading builders in the United States, national; regional and local builders have been making commitments to RESNET to have all of their homes rated and to market their homes’ HERS Index. In 2012 RESNET will continue to recruit builders to make the HERS Index commitment and work with them to market why a home buyer needs to ask for the HERS Index of the home they are buying.
- **Maintain Quality Assurance of Rating a Building’s Energy Performance and the Improvement of the Energy Performance of a Home** – RESNET’s mission is to set the standards of quality for the rating and the improving of a building’s energy performance. It must always be a priority for the organization to maintain high quality assurance oversight of its standards.
- **Advocate for Federal Action on Tax Credits and Financing the Improvements of Building Energy Performance** – A key barrier to improving the energy performance of buildings is the lack of sustainable and affordable financing. There are a number of initiatives before

Congress that provide financing for the improvements of building energy performance. In 2012 RESNET will play an active role in working with our strategic allies in providing decision makers with the information needed to make effective legislation.

- **Foster Strategic Alliances with the Private Sector** – RESNET does not have the resources necessary to undertake an effective marketing effort to create a consumer demand for high energy performance. RESNET is developing alliances with the private sector to recruit their contractor members/clients to become certified as RESNET Energy Smart Contractors and to market to consumers the importance of improving the energy performance of homes. In addition the allies agree to coordinate their advocacy efforts in Washington. To date such key organizations as the National Remodeling Industry Association, the Insulation Contractors Association of America, the Air Conditioning Contractors of America, the Home Depot, Masco, CertainTeed Insulation and Dow Building Solutions have entered into Memorandums of Understanding with RESNET. In 2012 these partnerships will be deployed and additional partners will be recruited.
- **Support the COMNET Partnership** – In 2011 the RESNET Board voted to structure COMNET as a partnership with other non-profit organizations, on at least interim basis. RESNET and the New Buildings Institute will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to spell out the secretariat responsibilities of the partnership.
- **Position RESNET Members to Take Advantage of the New Emerging Business Opportunities** – In working with its strategic allies, RESNET is creating new business opportunities for its certified professionals in the rating of buildings and improving the energy performance of homes. In 2012 RESNET will position its members to take advantage of these emerging opportunities through sessions at the 2012 RESNET Building Performance Conference, RESNET consumer web site enhancements, and added resources such as web site directory listings and access to lead generation services.
- **Begin Process of Adopting RESNET ANSI Standards** – RESNET has applied to be accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a Standard Development Organization. In 2012 RESNET will begin the process of adopting its and COMNET's standards as ANSI standards.
- **Maintain RESNET's Financial Sustainability** – There is currently a depression in the nation's housing market. The number of new homes being built continues to decrease each year. This trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. This economic condition presents a

challenge for RESNET to maintain its current services and position itself to meet the new opportunities. In 2011 the RESNET Board created a RESNET Financial Sustainability Task Force to present recommendations to the RESNET Board at its 2011 fall meeting. RESNET's draft 2012 budget submission has a balance of revenue enhancements and administrative reductions to maintain its financial sustainability in these hard times.