



Setting the Standards for
Home Energy Efficiency

RESNET 2013 Priorities

Adopted by the RESNET Board of Directors October 22, 2012

- **Increase the Penetration of the RESNET HERS Index in the Housing Market**

An emerging trend in the new homes market is homebuilders differentiating their homes by having their homes energy rated and marketing their homes' HERS Index Score. The RESNET national home energy rating standards have become the industry's national standard for measuring and marketing a home's energy performance. America's largest builders and over two hundred local builders have entered into agreements with RESNET to have their homes energy rated. In the RESNET Strategic Plan, Goal #1 is "by 2018 a majority of new homes sold in the U.S. will have been issued a HERS Index Score". In 2013 RESNET will continue to recruit builders to make the HERS Index commitment and undertake a marketing effort to educate consumers about the HERS Index so they will ask for the HERS Index Score of the home they are considering to buy. It is expected that this momentum will create a market pressure for more builders to have their homes energy rated and that consumers will ask for the HERS Index of homes. It is expected that this will affect the existing homes market also with the HERS Index becoming the "MPG" of homes for sale.

- **Work with the Building Industry, Code Advocates, Rating Industry and Local Code Jurisdictions to Incorporate the HERS Index Score as an Option in Building Energy Code Compliance**

A number of state and local code jurisdictions from Idaho to New York have incorporated the RESNET HERS Index as a compliance option in their building energy codes. In 2012 RESNET will continue to work with builders, raters, code advocates and local jurisdictions to incorporate the HERS Index conducted by certified RESNET Home Energy Raters into their codes.

The RESNET Strategic Plan's Goal #2 is "By 2018 the RESNET standards for the performance testing of homes and the HERS Index as a

compliance option will be incorporated into the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)".

The 2012 version of the IECC requires that air tightness and duct leakage testing be undertaken on all new homes. The IECC does not specify, however, the protocols to be used in conducting these tests. RESNET is in the process of developing an ANSI standard on the protocols for air and duct leakage testing. When the standard is adopted, RESNET will work with builders and code advocates to be incorporated into the IECC.

In 2011, 40% of all new homes sold in the U.S. were energy rated and issued a HERS Index. RESNET is developing an ANSI standard on the calculating and labeling the energy performance of homes using the HERS Index. When the standard is developed in 2013, it will make the RESNET HERS Index Score ready to be incorporated as a compliance option in the IECC.

- **Consumer Awareness Campaign on the HERS Index Score**

The RESNET Strategic Plan's Goal #6 is, "By 2015 consumers awareness of the HERS Index Score will increase through builders marketing their homes' score and through increased social media exposure". In 2012 RESNET will continue to work with builders to educate consumers of their homes' HERS Index Score. RESNET will support this effort through an aggressive social media campaign urging homebuyers to "Know the Score" of the homes they are considering.

- **Advocate for Policy and Legislation to Foster the Financing of the Improved Energy Performance of Homes**

Until sustainable and affordable financing is secured, increased home energy performance will never realize its potential. This is particularly true with the existing homes market. The most effective tool to improve existing home energy performance is to have sustainable and affordable financing. With the pressures on the federal budget, this financing will not be provided through appropriations. A number of initiatives were introduced in Congress including the SAVE Act, extension of the residential energy efficiency tax credits, electric cooperative on-bill financing, and a performance based tax credit for improving the energy performance of existing homes. In 2013 there will be a new Congress and RESNET needs to be effective in working with its strategic allies in advocating the introduction and passage of these initiatives. The RESNET Strategic Plan's Goal #3 is to have the "SAVE Act Enacted and Implemented by 2018". RESNET will continue to advocate for the enactment of this critical piece of legislation.

- **Maintain RESNET's Financial Sustainability**

RESNET Strategic Plan's Goal #4 is, "Continue to maintain RESNET's Financial Sustainability through 2018". The recession in the nation's economy has continued to depress the nation's housing industry. In addition, the federal government is facing a critical deficit. This means there is little hope for appropriations to foster home energy performance. These conditions present a challenge for RESNET to maintain its current services and position itself to meet the new opportunities.

RESNET's 2013 budget has a balance of revenue enhancements through wise investments of its reserve account and administrative reductions to maintain its financial sustainability in these hard times.