



Setting the Standards for  
Home Energy Efficiency



## **RESNET 2016 Priorities**

**Adopted by RESNET Board of Directors on October 19, 2016**

- **Ensure the National Consistency of HERS Index Scores**

The RESNET HERS Index Score is fast becoming a mainstream in the national housing market. Builders rely upon it to market the energy performance of their homes; code jurisdictions are adopting a HERS Index Score as a compliance option to their building energy codes; and consumers are using the scores in comparing the energy efficiency of homes they are considering purchasing. With this trend there is a need to ensure the national consistency in the ways homes are rated and scored.

In 2014 the RESNET Board adopted a set of policies to ensure the national consistency of HERS Index Scores. In 2016 RESNET activities will be focused on implementing the new procedures. Activities will focus on:

- Ensuring qualified HERS Raters and Rating Field Inspectors
- Robust quality assurance oversight
- Consistency in the calculation of HERS Index Scores
- Development of quality assurance oversight infrastructure.

- **Work with the Building Industry, Code Advocates, Rating Industry and Local Code Jurisdictions to Adopt and Implement Energy Rating Index Option in the 2015 International Conservation Code**

The International Code Council adopted a home energy ratings score option for the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). This was adopted due to a partnership between environmental organizations and home builders. The new option will result in increased energy performance of homes while giving greater flexibility to builders.

RESNET has entered into a partnership with the International Code Council educate and train code officials on the HERS Index and its benefits as a code compliance option and having certified RESNET HERS Raters trained and certified to be energy code inspectors.

The emphasis in 2016 will be assist state and local building jurisdictions in adopting and implementing the 2015 IECC Energy Rating Index option.

- **Through Dynamic Partnerships with the Housing Industry, Product Suppliers, Utilities and Code Officials 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 leading builders have entered into agreements with RESNET to have their homes energy rated. In 2016 through dynamic partnerships .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. This should also affect the existing homes market also with the HERS Index becoming the "energy yardstick" of homes for sale.

- **Develop RESNET Water Efficiency Rating Index for Homes**

Water is the new frontier for RESNET and HERS Raters. In many parts of the nation water is fast becoming an ever increasingly expensive commodity. There is clearly a need for a system to rate a home's efficiency in water use. This will allow homebuyers to know how efficiently water is being used in the homes they are considering to buy. It will also provide an opportunity for homebuilders to monetize the efficiency of their homes in the same fashion that the HERS Index plays for energy efficiency.

- **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 2016 RESNET will continue to be effective in working with its strategic allies in advocating the introduction and passage of these initiatives. In addition, RESNET, in partnership with its strategic allies will continue to advocate for effective performance federal tax credits for both new and existing homes.

- **Expand RESNET's Services to Rural America**

Rural Americans pay among the highest energy bills in the nation. The procedures and infrastructure in the more urban areas of America will not work for the more rural areas. A goal in 2016 is to expand RESNET's services to rural America has developed partnerships with the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association and Touchstone Energy. The partnerships will work on addressing the barriers limiting RESNET services.