

CBPCA Update

e-newsletter of the California Building Performance Contractors Association

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NEW Membership Categories

We need your help to continue to make a difference. Your support enables us to develop more classes, monitor and act on legislation, and expand our services to you. Please take a moment, review the New [Membership](#) Categories and join at the level that best fits your business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Go Solar California Launches Second Annual Sweepstakes

CBPCA Member Is The Green Contractor For The Go Solar California Green Home Make-Over Sweepstakes

Californians are invited to test their solar and energy efficiency knowledge during the 2009 Go Solar California sweepstakes from the California Energy Commission's New Solar Homes Partnership. Participants can enter to win a complete "green home makeover," worth more than \$70,000, including the installation of rooftop solar panels, a suite of EnergyStar appliances, plus more green prizes.

The campaign is designed to educate consumers about the benefits of energy efficient homes with solar PV electric systems. Prize contributions for the Green Home Make-Over are all donated by partners in the campaign.

Steve Adair, owner of Sage Haus and a CBPCA member, is contributing the Green Home Performance Package, which includes upgrades for insulation, ducting, and sealing plus a new solar hot water heater, high efficiency HVAC, and low V.O.C. paint.

The make-over team will have many green home products to work with, including: Energy Star appliances, a \$10,000 collection of sustainable "Inside Green" furniture, an ultra quiet whole house fan, a recycled glass kitchen countertop, 150 sq. ft. of recycled glass tile contributed, high efficiency toilets and low flow faucets, a collection of energy-efficient custom-made window fashions, eco-friendly home décor items, recycled carpet tiles, low flow shower heads, and eco-friendly compressed board.

Monthly and runner-up prizes have also been provided by some of the prize contributors, including a recycled glass mosaic tile backsplash. The sweepstakes is designed as an incentive for Californians to learn about energy efficiency and solar PV so that they can apply these practices that they learn to everyday life. Californians are invited to watch a short video, take a quick quiz, and then enter the [sweepstakes](#). The 2009 Go Solar California sweepstakes launched on Earth Day, April 22nd, and will run through October, 2009.

About Go Solar California: The state of California launched the Go Solar California campaign in 2007 with an unprecedented \$3.3 billion effort that aims to install 3,000 megawatts of new grid-connected solar over the next decade and to transform the market for solar energy by reducing the cost of solar.

The California Energy Commission's New Solar Homes Partnership funds solar installations on new home construction, while the California Public Utilities Commission's California Solar Initiative offers incentives for solar systems

installed on existing residential homes, existing and new commercial, industrial, government, non-profit, and agricultural properties within the service territories of the investor-owned utility territories in California.

About the New Solar Homes Partnership: Launched in January 2007, the New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP) is a component of the California Solar Initiative, signed into law in 2006 under Senate Bill 1 (Murray) to implement Governor Schwarzenegger's \$3.3 billion, Million Solar Roofs Program. The NSHP provides financial incentives and marketing support to home builders, encouraging the construction of new, energy efficient solar homes that save homeowners money on their electric bills and helps protect the environment. The goals of the NSHP are to create a self-sustaining market for solar homes and gain builder commitment to install solar energy systems on new homes as a standard feature for the home buyer. A new home that qualifies for the New Solar Homes Partnership is at least 15 percent more efficient than the current building standards. The overall goal of the NSHP is to achieve 400 megawatts of new solar-produced electricity by the end of 2016. To find out more about new energy efficient solar homes in your area, visit GoSolarCalifornia.org.

[Efficiency First](#)

If you're serious about energy efficiency and the future of our industry, please take the time to become a member of Efficiency First!

Bolstering our numbers is ESSENTIAL to getting our voices heard.

Go to [Efficiency First](#) to read about the latest legislation affecting our businesses such as....

WASHINGTON, DC - Rep. Peter Welch's energy efficiency bill has been incorporated into major climate change legislation released Tuesday. Welch's Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP) bill, H.R. 1778, was included in the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which was authored by House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Henry Waxman and... [Click to link](#)

Legislative Updates

Energy Efficiency Mortgages face technical roadblocks

A significant Home Performance event took place this week, which nearly passed under everyone's radar at the speed of a comet. Senator Diane Feinstein's office received information which was forwarded to the Senate Energy Committee, that would allow them to assist Congress to technically correct flawed statutory language regarding the 2006 Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) legislation, affecting the release of a Mortgage Letter from HUD. The letter from HUD, would issue guidance to lenders to remove the \$8,000 limitation of effective energy efficiency improvements in the FHA Energy Efficient Mortgage (EEM) Program for any qualified FHA-backed loan recipient, and allow for energy improvements up to 5% of the appraised value or 2% of the loan limit, whichever is greater.

John Shipman of Energy Efficiency Management, Inc. has been working closely with Senator Feinstein's office for nearly six months to uncover the exact section of the HERA document which can lift the \$8,000 cap on energy efficiency improvements to the EEM. John says "the significance of the event is huge for Home Performance and Energy Efficiency". Shipman added that "...Now Congress has the ball, and a clear path to technically correct the flawed statutory language, putting Home Performance and real energy efficiency on the doorstep of any average American utilizing an EEM, not to mention the effect it will have on jobs focused on energy efficiency"... Congressional members need to be informed and enlightened of the importance to expeditiously move this correction through Congress.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- **JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR Northern Calif contractors.** An energy efficiency/green retrofit startup, Places Green, is looking for experienced energy auditors to perform both residential and nonresidential energy audits in the Bay Area. Initially these will be contract positions paying competitive wages with the possibility of moving into full time employment in the near term. Interested parties should be experienced in conducting both basic and detailed audits. For residential, we are looking for auditors who have been trained in the Energy Star Home Performance house as a system process of evaluation. For nonresidential, we are interested in auditors who have experience in developing: energy conservation measures related to HVAC, lighting, building envelope and other; load management strategies; and operations and maintenance improvements. Funding for continuing education will be available for certifications such as: BPI certifications, LEED AP certification, Green Point Rating certification.

If interested, please contact Heidi Young, President of Places Green, at heidi@whatsmyco2.com or 415/750-1231 / 888-947-5223. Positions to start April

- **SoCal Contractors JOB OPPORTUNITIES:** The California Air Resources Board (ARB), through its Innovative Clean Air Technology (ICAT) program, is sponsoring an 80-unit demonstration project in Southern California. All existing SWH installers are welcome to participate in this program. Free installer training will be provided by Davis Energy Group, who is administering this program. PV installers and plumber contractors not currently installing SWH systems are also encouraged to participate. [More Info](#).

TRAINING

- **FREE WEB TRAINING FOR INFRARED CAMERA**
Fluke is offering, what appears to be free, a web based training on thermal imaging for residential energy audits and weatherization. While they will be addressing the Fluke line of IR cameras, the basic information may prove valuable. [Click to link](#).
- **At SCE's energy centers,** AGTAC and CTAC, you'll find the information, training, and support. Both facilities offer basic and advanced classes on lighting, HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), motors, and refrigeration. These courses are available throughout SCE's service territory. Additionally, there are classes offered focusing on power quality, demand response, electrical safety, and food service technologies. [Classes](#)
- **California Energy Commission's Energy Code Online Training Website** This site provides video training on a variety of energy code and related building science issues, and offers guidance on the design and construction of efficient, durable and sustainable buildings in California. Code Training Online is divided into sections for ease of navigation and includes the Residential Code, Energy Code, HVAC, Building Envelope and more. Each "Resource" module is comprised of training videos, plus additional related resource links including the actual Code and other documents. [Online Training](#)
- Pure Air Control Services Environmental Diagnostics Laboratory offers free Webinars on "IAQ/Mold 101 - Benefits of IAQ"

Screening" (CEU's available). [To Register...](#)

Festivals, Home Shows, etc.

We're looking for a few good contractors who would like to educate the public about Home Performance and CBPCA, hone your presentation skills, network w/ other CBPCA professionals, and hopefully get new clients.

Please [let me know](#) if you know of a show coming up and are interested in participating. I will try to get a free booth space and send you banners. Also let me know if you would like to be considered as a speaker at the event and I will submit the request.

MISCELLANEOUS

LAWN SIGN

Do you have a lawn sign posted while you're at your client's house? Consider prominently displaying "Home Performance" on the sign and get the neighbors asking your client questions!

CO POISONING VIDEO

Informative web video link for homeowners as well as contractors on carbon monoxide poisoning. [Click to link](#)

CFL's

"In Europe, the new regulations (on plans to outlaw incandescent by 2012) have provoked skepticism among some consumers concerned about light quality and the mercury contained in CFLs. Fortunately, today's CFLs are vastly better than their predecessors, offering the same lighting quality as incandescent bulbs. As for mercury, CFL usage will actually reduce total output. While the average CFL contains about 4 mg of mercury, a power plant will emit 10 mg of mercury while producing the electricity needed for one incandescent bulb over the course of its lifetime. A CFL, in contrast, would result in the emission of only 2.4 mg of mercury over the same period - a net savings of 3.6 mg per bulb." (as reported in Flex Your Power's email newsletter, based on European press sources)

A "greener" generation mix and power plant mercury emissions scrubbing could reduce those emissions but the net effect would still be in favor of the CFLs for a long time yet. And by then we'll probably be moving to LED lighting.

A SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO PESTICIDES

If you're not sure whether you can afford organic produce these days, a new guide to pesticides may be a helpful guidepost. The Environmental Working Group's Shopper's Guide to Pesticides is a wallet size checklist of the "Dirty Dozen" - 12 vegetables and fruits that carry the most pesticide residues after normal cleaning and peeling and the "Clean 15" are fruits and vegetables that were shown to have the lowest chemical levels. The idea is that if you have to make choices when buying organic, focus on the Dirty Dozen, which include a lot of fruits with thin, edible skins, such as strawberries, cherries, nectarines, apples, imported grapes and pears. to download the guide or get more details, visit [Foodnews](#)

Resources

Utility Rebates

[DSIRE.org](#) is a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility, and federal incentives that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency

Tax Credits

The passage of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has brought

changes to the energy efficiency tax credits available. A detailed and updated list of these tax credits can be found at [ENERGY STAR's Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency](#). Start using tax credits in your sales presentation today!

New Resources Available Verified Contractors!

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR team recently added several new resources to help participants promote and deliver Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HPwES).

NEW resources include:

- Promotional video - This short video helps you explain the value of HPwES to your customers.
- Business form templates - Lead qualification, test-in and test-out forms, and a concise summary report.
- New business tools and information - An Air Sealing Pricing Report and a utility bill disaggregation tool to help you enhance your home performance contracting services.
- Enhanced marketing toolkit features - Upload your company name and logo to make customized ENERGY STAR branded brochures, ads, and fact sheets. New enhancements allow you to use your own background images.
- Downloadable house graphics - Help your customers visualize the common problems found in many homes and how the services you provide can solve them.

Visit the marketing resources web page for a more detailed description of these resources, or sign into My ENERGY STAR Account (MESA) to access these materials and more! If you do not currently have access to MESA, please contact your local Sponsor to request access.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Wesley Harding, CEO of Harding Construction & Sustainable Solutions and **John Shipman**, CEO, Energy Efficiency Management, Inc., are coordinating a Green and Sustainable Building Certificate Program with Cal State U Long Beach. Although their class will have already begun by the time you receive this, you can see the course description [here](#).

CBPCA Yahoo Group

One of the many benefits of Professional Membership is access to our Yahoo Group where questions are answered and ideas are exchanged. Following is one of the most recent exchanges.

Marketable rating for our home upgrade work
Posted by: Dadla Ponizil

I recently did an HP assessment of a single family home and the client asked me if I can provide a rating such as an Energy Star performance rating or some such recognized certification of the house if he chooses to do the upgrades I recommended. I was a bit embarrassed to not have one even though I am part of the Home Performance with Energy Star program.

I told him that as far as I knew Energy Star only applies to new construction and the only systems I know of for existing homes is a Build It Green rating. To remedy this, I'll be taking the HERS Existing Homes Rating training using Rate Tool in June.

Is anyone using any other system that provides a similar certificate and if so, how do you quantify the rating or energy performance as a combination of all the things we do, i.e. infiltration rate, duct leakage, envelope quality, etc.

This becomes particularly important as investors buy up foreclosures, green them up, and try to market them.

From Bob Knight, Director CBPCA

Dadla, we have a certificate of job completion under HPwES on the website, I believe. But Energy Star provides no rating for existing homes.

When the HERS II system gets into operation (they're going to be late; probably fall, not August 1) it will be possible to provide a real energy rating score and certificate.

CBPCA and the other HERS Providers are in the process of developing their training and tests for that and getting it approved by CEC. It will require that you use simulation software that isn't ready yet although one package (EnergyPro) is getting fairly far along toward completion and approval. Those ratings will require full data submittal and sampled verifications, very much like HPwES in our upcoming utility programs. We are working toward integrating the HERS II ratings with our home performance training. I believe you won't need to learn much more to qualify. But be patient; it won't happen for probably another six months. Probably about the time our new utility programs will begin with their customer incentives. And the AB811 financing may also be available in your area by then, so your customers will have a much more attractive situation overall.

**'Far and away the best prize that life offers is
the chance to work hard at work worth doing.'
-- Theodore Roosevelt**

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Past newsletters posted at: www.cbpca.org/contractors/news.html

Please forward this newsletter to others you think may be interested.