

HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR Praises Century Club Contractors

The Century Club award recognizes an organization as one of the select few that have improved the energy efficiency of more than 100 homes in the past year through the Home Performance with Energy Star (HPwES) program. This program, which is sponsored locally, offers homeowners a comprehensive, whole-house approach to improving energy efficiency and comfort, while saving money on utility bills and helping to protect the environment.

"2008 is the first year HPwES has recognized contractors in our program that have performed over 100 energy-efficient installations," Chandler von Schrader, operations manager for HPwES, explains. "These Century Club contractors are committed to using building science to maximize energy savings, comfort, and building durability. By making our existing housing stock more energy efficient, these Century Club contractors are at the forefront of our nation's efforts to address climate change and lessen our dependence on foreign sources of energy."

Participating contractors receive specialized training and are equipped with diagnostic tools to inspect homes inside and out to determine where improvements are needed. Rather than focusing on a single problem, like an old heating or cooling system, insufficient insulation in the attic, or leaky windows, they look at how improvements throughout a home can work together to give homeowners the best results. Depending on the improvements these homeowners choose, they can often save 20% or more on their annual utility bills.



The following companies are the first recipients of the Century Club Award. The Home Performance with Energy Star program congratulates these market leaders in addressing the energy efficiency needs in the existing home marketplace:

SPONSOR—New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

GreenHomes America
Hughesco of Buffalo

Comfort Home Improvement of Syracuse

Comfort Home Improvement of Rochester

Zerodraft of Central New York, Incorporated

Standard Insulating Company, Inc.

Superior Heat Company, LLC

John Betlem Heating and Cooling, Inc.

Hughesco of Rochester

Crossfield Heating and Air Conditioning

Wonder Home Improvement

All Star Energy/Home Comfort Heating and Cooling

Zero Draft of the Capital District

Zenner & Ritter, Incorporated

Town Insulation



SPONSOR—Austin Energy

Strand Brothers

ARS

Cen-Tex Thermal

SPONSOR—Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation

Duert Insulation Technicians

North Star Energy Consulting, LLC

SPONSOR—Energy Trust of Oregon

Home Visions West

SPONSOR—California Building Performance Contractors Association (CBPCA)

Sustainable Spaces, Incorporated

REBUILDING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

Every 80 minutes, another low-income family moves into a better place to live with the help of the Enterprise Foundation, a nonprofit group rebuilding homes, neighborhoods, and lives across the country. In an era of housing foreclosures and vanishing jobs, Enterprise is rescuing communities and introducing neighborhood solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, government offices, and community organizations.

The most recent addition to those partnerships is the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting public safety and energy efficiency in the building environment nationwide.



IBTS has worked with low-income and affordable housing initiatives for more than 30 years, acting as the manufactured- and modular-housing monitoring agent for HUD.

IBTS's Energy Manager Kevin Powell is a certified LEED AP rater, Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) home energy rater, and Energy Star rater. IBTS has experts in everything from disaster management services to training, helping new building officials to obtain their certifications.

IBTS will be serving Enterprise as a technical advisor to affordable and green developers working on Green Communities projects. Enterprise's goal is to match specific green technical expertise to the most urgent development needs in order to increase overall building performance and maximize energy, water, and health savings for low-income residents. In addition to creating a national registry, they will offer green technical assistance grants to qualified green affordable housing developers. This grant fund will encourage participating developers to contract with IBTS in order to support on-site energy assessments, design review, construction monitoring, performance evaluation, and resident operations training in underserved communities.

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For more information:

To learn more about the Enterprise Foundation, go to www.enterprisecommunity.org/.

About IBTS, go to www.ibts.org.

For more information:

To learn more about Home Performance with Energy Star, go to www.energystar.gov.