



## Rater News for Winter 2021

Welcome to the Winter 2021 issue of **Rater News**, brought to you by the Washington State University Energy Program Home Energy Rater Program.

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### **News from Jonathan Jones**

#### ***Happy Holidays! My best to you and yours for a Joyful and Happy Holiday Season***



As 2021 comes to a close, I thought I would take a moment to reflect on some of our Program's accomplishments of the past year. Although challenged by the COVID Pandemic, we have a lot to be proud of.

At the beginning of 2021, we integrated AXIS into our workflow. AXIS serves as a centralized data collection, storage and sharing portal where all facets from training, certification and QAs can be shared and stored. HERS and ENERGY STAR® New Residential and Multifamily trainings sessions were held throughout the year. In June, the Washington State University (WSU) Energy Program received the 2021 ENERGY STAR® Market Leader Award for its outstanding efforts to promote energy efficient residential construction. Over the course of the year, four issues of [Rater News](#) were published. In late summer, the Program expanded the [WSU NW Rater](#) website – now available for you to view. In the fall, the Program entered into partnership with two utilities, Idaho Power and Water's [Residential New Construction Program](#) and Puget Sound Energy's [High Performance Homes Incentives](#). The number of raters electing to



choose the WSU Energy Program as their RESNET Provider increased from 37 in 2020 to 46 as of this newsletter. We are excited to continue supporting all of you in 2022 and beyond.

In October, I came onboard full time as your RESNET QAD to provide training, and to support your efforts in promoting home energy efficiency in new construction. Thank you to everyone for helping us to have a successful year.

### **Annual Mandatory Meeting for WSU Energy Program Raters January 24 or 28, 2022**

The annual mandatory meeting for NW Raters will be held either *January 24 or 28 at 9:00 a.m.*

This year's theme will be "Back to the Future." Topics to be discussed include an update on the program, software, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs, tax credit changes, and codes and standards. Specific meeting details and an agenda will be sent out soon via email.

### **News from RESNET**

#### **2022 RESNET Mission, Goals and Priorities**

Check out the 2022 RESNET Mission and Goals adopted by the RESNET Board of Directors September 20, 2021:

<https://www.resnet.us/wp-content/uploads/RES-2022-RESNET-Mission-Goals-and-Priorities-V2.pdf>



#### **Update on 45L Federal Tax Credit for Energy Efficient Homes**

Many of you are probably wondering about the 45L Tax Credit. Changes in the 45L Tax Credit are included in the Build Back Better Bill, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on November 19, 2021, and waiting on the U.S. Senate. We asked RESNET for information about the revised 45L and received the following summary:

- The provision extends the Section 45L new energy efficient home credit through 2031. In the case of new homes acquired after 2022 – which are eligible to participate in the ENERGY STAR Residential New Construction Program or Manufactured Homes Program – the provision provides a \$2,500 credit for energy efficient single family and manufactured new homes meeting certain Energy Star requirements.
- Single-family homes must meet the most recent Energy Star Single-Family New Homes Program requirements applicable to such dwelling location as in effect on 1.) The latter of January 1, 2022, or January 1 of two calendar years prior to the date the home is acquired and 2.) National Program Requirement Version 3.1 for homes acquired before 2025 and Version 3.2 thereafter.
- Manufactured homes must meet the most recent Energy Star Manufactured Home National Program requirements as in effect on the latter of January 1, 2022, or January 1 of two calendar years prior to the date the dwelling is acquired. This provision provides a higher



tier credit of \$5,000 for eligible single family and manufactured new homes certified as zero-energy ready under the U.S. DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Program.

- Multifamily Homes - in the case of new homes acquired after 2022 – which are eligible to participate in the Energy Star Multifamily New Construction Program – the provision provides a base credit of \$500 and a bonus credit of \$2,500 for multifamily units. They must meet the most recent Energy Star Multifamily Home National Program requirements as in effect on the latter of January 1, 2022, or January 1 of two calendar years prior to the date the dwelling is acquired and the most recent Energy Star Multifamily Home Regional Program requirements applicable to such a unit as in effect on the latter of January 1, 2022, or January 1 of two calendar years prior to the date that the dwelling is acquired.
- This provision provides a higher tier base credit of \$1,000, or a bonus credit of \$5,000 for eligible multifamily units certified as zero-energy ready under the U.S. DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Program. To claim the bonus credit amount with respect to a multifamily unit, builders must satisfy prevailing wage requirements for the duration of the construction of such multifamily units.

Stay tuned for more updates on the 45L Federal Tax Credit. RESNET is planning a program on the 45L at the next annual RESNET Conference in February. Participants can attend in person, or attend the RESNET Virtual Conference in March.

## **WSU Energy Program News**

### **Grant Will Help Students Learn How to Build Energy-Efficient Buildings**

WSU students will soon have the chance to tackle one of the biggest 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges – how to effectively design and build more high-performing, energy-efficient housing — thanks to support from a new U.S. DOE curriculum development grant.

A WSU team, led by Omar Al-Hassawi, assistant professor in the School of Design and Construction received a three year, \$750,000 grant to develop a curriculum for building science certificates and a degree focused on energy-efficient housing. The new program aims to close a gap in comprehensive energy efficiency training for students, as well as for professionals who are already in the workforce. The team is collaborating with the WSU Energy Program, McKinstry – a Seattle-based construction and engineering company, King County’s Housing Development Consortium, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory’s Energy Efficiency Program on development of the courses. They anticipate starting to offer them in January 2023. WSU team members include Ryan Smith, Julia Day, David Drake, Taiji Miyasaka, and Max Kirk from the School of Design and Construction; Don Bender from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; Dustin McLarty from the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering; Michael Lubliner and Carolyn Roos from the WSU Energy Program; and Suzanne Hamada from the Composite Materials and Engineering Center—Tina Hilding, *WSU News*, Sept. 30, 2021:

<https://news.wsu.edu/news/2021/09/30/teaching-students-how-to-build-energy-efficient-buildings/>

## **Code and Standard Updates**

### **Grading of Insulations is Going Away**

#### **Draft PDS-01, BSR/RESNET/ICC 301-2019 Addendum E-202x, Appendix A Update**

Proposed addendum BSR/RESNET/ICC 301-2019 Addendum E-202x will revise Standard ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301-2019 to update Appendix A and Section 4.2.2.2 on calculations and inspections for insulation installation grading. The major change made by the Appendix update is the transformation of the current 3 grade scheme into a 2 grade scheme. Inspections determine if the home's insulation installation meets the Appendix requirements for "Properly Installed" insulation (PII). The home is then assigned either the grade of Properly Installed or Not Properly Installed. For more information, including the draft and comments, see RESNET [website]:

<https://www.resnet.us/about/standards/resnet-ansi/draft-pds-01-bsr-resnet-icc-301-2019-addendum-e-202x-appendix-a-update/>

### **RESNET Approves Interim MINHERS Addendum 61i**

RESNET approved an exception to standard ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301-2019 that allows use of default air leakage values instead of onsite test determined air leakage for use where warranted during the federal declared emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. The exception expires when the federal emergency declaration expires and should only be used where circumstances warrant—RESNET [website], Oct. 21, 2021: <https://www.resnet.us/articles/resnet-approves-interim-minhers-addendum-61i/>

### **RESNET Releases Draft Standard for Public Comment: Draft PDS-01 of MINHERS Addendum 60: Combustion Safety Field Training**

RESNET Standard Development Committee 200 approved Draft PDS-01 of MINHERS Addendum 60, Combustion Safety Field Training, for public review and comment. Proposed Addendum 60 amends the RESNET Mortgage Industry National Home Energy Rating Standards (MINHERS), Chapter 2 to clarify training requirements for combustion safety field training. The draft addendum, comment form, and comments received are posted at [Draft PDS-01, MINHERS Addendum 560, Combustion Safety Field Training](#). After the comment period, RESNET Standard Development Committee 200 will consider and respond to each of the comments submitted and make appropriate changes to the next draft. Any substantive changes will be submitted for public comment—RESNET [website], Dec. 1, 2021— <https://www.resnet.us/articles/resnet-releases-public-comment-draft-combustion-safety-field-training/>

### **New 2021 Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) Takes Effect October 1**

The Oregon Building Codes Division adopted the new 2021 Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC), which took effect April 1. The six-month phase-in period, wherein permit applicants have

the option to submit for permits using either the current (2017) ORSC or the new (2021) ORSC, is coming to an end—City of Portland, Oregon [website]:

<https://www.portland.gov/bds/news/2021/8/18/new-2021-oregon-residential-specialty-code-orsc-takes-effect-oct-1>

## **U.S. EPA Program News**

### **U.S. DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes and the Year Ahead**

“Zero Energy Ready Homes” have grown from a niche product unfamiliar to many, to a standard offering in the marketplace found in stretch codes, utility programs, and affordable housing programs. The U.S. DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes program is moving to Version 2 in 2022, which will incorporate more proven innovations and establish ZERH as the stepping off point for future zero emissions homes.

Listen to this session to learn more about these exciting program advancements and share your input and questions—DOE Energy Ready Homes, Oct. 18, 2021:

[https://www.energystar.gov/partner\\_resources/residential\\_new/tools\\_resources/doe-zero-energy-ready-homes-and-the-year-ahead](https://www.energystar.gov/partner_resources/residential_new/tools_resources/doe-zero-energy-ready-homes-and-the-year-ahead)



Visit the Residential New Construction Energy Star Recorded webinars webpage for all recently recorded webinars:

[https://www.energystar.gov/partner\\_resources/residential\\_new/educational\\_resources/energy\\_star\\_webinars/recorded\\_webinars](https://www.energystar.gov/partner_resources/residential_new/educational_resources/energy_star_webinars/recorded_webinars)

## **Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities**

### **WSU Energy Program HERS Program**

The WSU Northwest Raters Program is planning on scheduling HERS Training and Energy Star New Residential and Multi-Family training opportunities in late January and February.

Information will be available soon. Information on training will also be posted on [our training webpage](#).

### **Sustainable Homes Professional (SHP) Online**

SHP (Sustainable Homes Professional) is an in-depth, interactive, and field-tested online training program for industry professionals who are looking to take their residential projects and building craft to the next level of quality. Previously an 84-hour in-person training, the SHP training program was redesigned into a condensed, self-paced online format. Training topics covered in SHP are designed to maximize the health, comfort, durability, savings, and sustainability benefits for your home buyer/owner clients. For more information see:

<https://www.earthadvantage.org/training/2400/668>



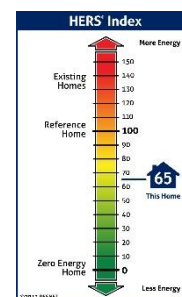
## **Retrotec Three-Day On-Site Training: Large Building Airtightness Testing: Feb. 16-18, 2022, Everson, WA**

Expand your skillset with Retrotec's 3 Day Large Building Training. This intermediate course will provide an understanding of the role that air leakage plays in buildings. The principles in this training course apply to residential houses, apartment buildings, office, commercial, high-rise, and industrial buildings, as well as an array of other applications. For more information, and to register: [https://www.retrotec.com/events/index/view/event\\_id/56/](https://www.retrotec.com/events/index/view/event_id/56/)

## **Newsbriefs**

### **Nearly one in four New Homes Received HERS Rating in 2020**

A home's Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index Score is calculated by a certified Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) HERS Rater who provides an energy rating for a home by comparing its features against a defined reference home, which has a set score of 100. Since the inception of the HERS Index in 1995, there have been more than 3.2 million HERS-rated homes, with more than 230,000 homes rated this year. 2020 saw a 24 percent increase in number of rated homes over 2019, with nearly one in four new homes built receiving a HERS Index Score, according to RESNET—NAHB, Oct. 4, 2021: <https://nahbnow.com/2021/10/nearly-1-in-4-new-homes-in-2020-was-hers-rated/>



### **HERS® Rated Homes Grows in First Three Quarters of 2021 (Nearly Up 13k YOY)**

Despite the continued disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, supply shortages, and labor shortages, the demand for HERS grew steadily in the first half of 2021. In the first six months of 2021, there were 150,894 homes rated and entered into the RESNET registry. This compares with the 145,961 homes that were rated during the same period in 2020. The year 2020 broke the record for the number of homes that were HERS rated in the U.S.—RESNET, Oct. 12, 2021: <https://www.resnet.us/articles/hers-rated-homes-s-grows-in-1st-3-quarters-of-2021-13k-increase-yoy/>

### **U.S. DOE Upgrades One Million Homes as Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Provides Massive Investment in Energy Efficiency**

Secretary Jennifer M. Granholm traveled to Delaware today to announce that U.S. DOE has upgraded one million American homes with energy efficiency improvements through the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program. The trip and milestone underscore the importance of the weatherization and energy efficiency investments that are [within the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal](#). Since 2001, the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program has helped American homeowners and renters save \$7.7 billion on their energy bills and cut carbon emissions equivalent to a year's worth of 11 coal-fired power plants—DOE, EERE, Nov. 10, 2021: <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-upgrades-one-million-homes-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal-provides-massive-investment>



## Conferences

### **RESNET 2022—A Two Part Event: In-Person and/or Virtual: Feb. 21-23, 2022 Austin, TX and Virtual March 10-11, 2022**

RESNET is dedicated to providing a learning and networking experience where everyone can feel safe and comfortable. The RESNET 2022 Conference will be a two-part event: an in-person event in Austin, TX in February; and/or, a virtual event in March. All attendees will have access to the virtual conference platform through December 31, 2022. This conference is a great place to earn up to 18 CEU credits. [Join their “VIP” RSVP list](#) to be notified one week prior to registration being opened to the public, so that you can reserve your seat for this event. For more information, and to register check out the RESNET Conference website:

<https://www.resnet.us/conference/conference-2022/>



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Your WSU Energy Program Provider Team

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**Washington State University Energy Program. Home Energy Raters Program**

We welcome rater's questions, comments or ideas for articles. Please send to: [NWrater@energy.wsu.edu](mailto:NWrater@energy.wsu.edu)

