

RESNET's Effort to Develop National Standard for Energy Audits of Existing Homes

Wednesday 1:30pm – 3:00pm / Nautilus 1

Steve Baden

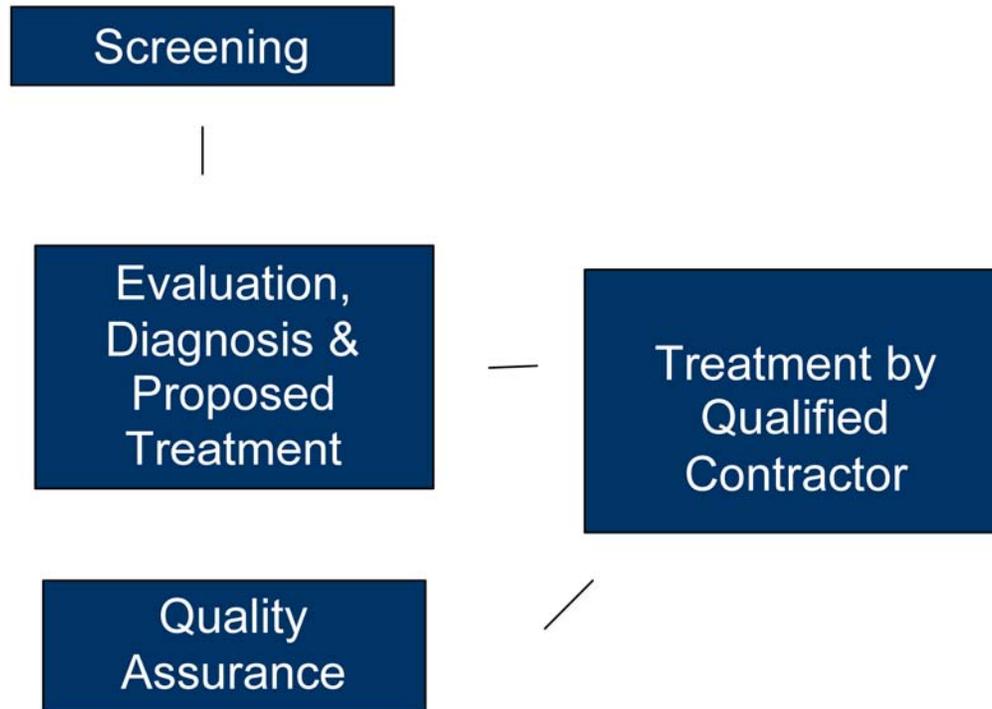
RESNET

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The RESNET National Standards for Energy Audits of Existing Homes was created to develop recommendations to the RESNET Board of Directors on developing national standards for energy audits. The task force's goal is to recommend a set of rules and best practices for persons who want to label themselves as an energy auditor and to provide national guidance on how an energy auditor approaches a home and conducts the needed data collection and analysis. The end result is intended to properly inform a homeowner and lead them to invest in cost effective energy improvements to the home.

Proposed National Energy Audit Framework



Screening

This would be the first step in the national energy audit process. This step would serve as a filter in which the level of the commitment by the homeowner, and the overall energy performance of the home, is determined.

Evaluation

Evaluation would involve a review of the data collected from the screening, discussion of further measurement and/or performance testing, pre-work safety testing, and an analysis of the home's performance.

Diagnosis and Proposed Treatment

Diagnosis is the more sophisticated analysis that determines the final scope of work. In this step, the professional would pinpoint the cause of the problems and propose specific actions to remedy the problem. The homeowner would then be provided with a referral to a qualified contractor to carry out the required treatment.

Qualified Contactor

Armed with the analysis conducted through the audit process a qualified contractor would make the needed upgrades. This process would also involve post-testing the home after the improvements are made, and any required postwork safety checks.

Quality Assurance

Improvements are inspected for quality and the house is tested out.

Definitions

Besides an agreement to the framework and features of energy audits, a national energy audit process would entail a set of definitions to be adopted by the task force. This set of definitions is required so that in future discussions there is clarity to what is being proposed and adopted.

Next Steps

Once an agreement is reached on the national framework and features of the process and common terminology, the task force can begin the process of addressing the following issues:

- What actually is involved in each of the steps in the process?
- Who can conduct the analysis required in each of the steps?
- What is the experience/knowledge base is required for each of the steps?
- How do health and safety concerns fit in with each of the steps?
- What are the quality assurance and ethics considerations?
- How will each of the steps relate to current RESNET and BPI processes?
- What disclosures of financial interests are required?
- Should a label be given to homes that undergo improvements?

QUESTIONS?