



April 14, 2016

Dale Hoffmeyer
Buildings Technology Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Support for DOE's Home Upgrade Program Accelerator

Dear Mr. Hoffmeyer,

The Home Performance Coalition (HPC) and Efficiency First are pleased to support the Department of Energy's Home Upgrade Program (HUP) Accelerator, which aims to increase the overall cost-effectiveness of residential energy efficiency program delivery through process and technology improvements.

HPC is a national non-profit organization that promotes the market adoption of residential energy efficiency technologies and practices through stakeholder engagement, policy development, education, and research. HPC is catalyst for change in the home performance industry and an important resource for energy efficiency professionals.

Efficiency First is a national association for the home performance industry that advocates for policies that accelerate the growth of the industry. Efficiency First also provides access to educational and networking opportunities, discounts on products and services, and works with companies to retrofit homes, creating opportunities for delivering meaningful energy savings to homeowners.

Today, over 115 million homes in the U.S. are responsible for 22 percent of the total U.S. energy consumption and over a billion metric tons of carbon emissions. Reducing the energy consumption of households by 20 percent is achievable today with existing technologies, but only if home upgrade programs find opportunities for overcoming many of the administrative costs that limit market activity.

HPC, with Efficiency First, the DOE, Accelerator partners, and other stakeholders, are leading a national initiative to promote data standardization in the residential sector through the adoption of HPXML, a Building Performance Institute (BPI) data standard that reduces the transactional costs associated with collecting and transferring home upgrade program data between different software systems. Using information technology and standardized datasets to streamline data exchange is an important goal of the HUP Accelerator, which is working to facilitate the widespread adoption of the data standard. Multiple Accelerator partners have adopted the HPXML, with impressive initial results:

- Using standardized HPXML datasets to describe an energy audit and completed project have reduced the data collection burden for home performance contractors that participate in whole-house programs,

increased contractor satisfaction with the program, and created opportunities for contractors to integrate project data into their business systems to improve customer service.

- HPXML has created opportunities for programs to open the market to multiple energy modeling tools, allowing contractors to choose the tool that best meets their business needs.
- HPXML has enabled programs to automate project approvals through the validation of standardized data, dramatically reducing the time needed to approve projects from several days to minutes.
- Programs have automated quality assurance systems and practices needed to efficiently support, measure, and verify energy savings by building automated data checks into HPXML-compliant software.

The HUP Accelerator is an important resource for programs that are thinking about or are in the process of improving program operations. HPC and Efficiency First are proud to be supporting this important initiative.

Please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Brian T. Castelli, President and CEO
Home Performance Coalition



Richard W. Riegel Burbank
President & Energy Advisor of Evergreen Home
Performance
Chairman, Efficiency First