



Residential Energy Code Field Study

Buildings account for roughly 40 percent of the nation's energy consumption. Enhancing their efficiency will lead to a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and significant energy savings for U.S. home and business owners. With this goal in mind, the U.S. Department of Energy has provided funding for states to conduct residential field studies, with the purpose of identifying opportunities for energy code training & education in new construction. The participation of builders and local building departments is crucial in supporting this important activity.

The three-part pilot study is being conducted across eight states, and includes: collecting and analyzing data to establish the baseline energy use of typical new single-family residential buildings in the state; conducting education, training & outreach activities based on findings of the baseline study; and collecting and analyzing data again in approximately two years to determine if changes in energy use resulted from the education, training & outreach activities.

Study Highlights:

- Results to be based on an energy metric and reported at the state level
- Focuses on individual code requirements within new single-family, site-built homes
- Data confidentiality built into the experiment
- Designed around a single site visit prioritizing key items
- Designed with statistically significant results in mind



Taking a Pulse of Residential Energy Use will help identify opportunities for targeted training and outreach activities to help reduce energy use.

Cooperation & Confidentiality

The reported data will not include any personally identifiable information (e.g., home addresses, code official names, or builder names). Results will be reported at the state level, and the purpose of the study is not to evaluate compliance based on individual homes.

Cooperation from builders and local building departments is essential to the success of the study. Key benefits include access to more targeted training opportunities, and greater knowledge about residential energy use in the state. The primary benefit, of course, is to help increase energy savings, which equates to significant utility cost savings to communities and homeowners across your state.

Building Departments: A representative from the project team will contact you to request the necessary list of addresses and contact information for projects in your region. In most cases, this is the only information needed from local building departments.

Builders: Members of the local field team may contact you to request access to selected sites. Individual projects are selected randomly based on current construction happening in your region, as reported by local building departments. Only one visit will be made to each home, and in most cases can be completed in a short time period to minimize any burden.

For more information on the study, visit:

<https://www.energycodes.gov/residential-energy-code-field-study>