

Texas Energy Efficiency / Homebuilding Field Study Announced

SPEER and NASEO, the National Association of State Energy Officials, have been funded by the U.S. Department of Energy to conduct a three-year-long study on new home energy efficiency in Texas. Our objectives will be to:

- assist the home building industry to capture energy savings through education and outreach,
- increase the current level of compliance with the state-adopted 2009 Energy Code or locally adopted higher codes, and
- create a baseline for industry practices in new home construction

The study will begin in the first quarter of 2015, when the data collection contractor will begin contacting building departments and home builders in the study area. The following key items will be inspected to establish the baseline for energy efficiency of homes.

- window SHGC and U-factor
- R-value and grade of insulation
- lighting efficiencies
- HVAC equipment information
- duct tightness testing
- envelope tightness testing

Important Points:

- This will be a random sampling of unoccupied new homes being built in the region
- Data will be collected from homes under construction by participating homebuilders.
- All data will be anonymously aggregated with no link to the address or homebuilder.
- Each home will be visited only once. No home will be deemed to be in compliance or not in compliance with the code
- The data will be aggregated and analyzed to assess current building practices
- Info on duct and envelope testing will be shared with the builder, if requested.



Next steps:

Following data collection, SPEER will engage in a regional education and training outreach to building code officials, homebuilders, subcontractors and others in the building industry in the study area. This education effort will incorporate training needs identified in the baseline data collection.

To complete this phase of the project, the data collection contractor will return two years after the initial study to conduct the another study of homes being built at that time. The two sets of data will be statistically analyzed to assess the change in building practices and the success of the education and outreach effort.

The results from this study will be integrated into SPEER's ongoing training and education programs offered to the building community throughout Texas and Oklahoma. Investor owned utilities in Texas will be using the results of the study to determine the feasibility of developing new incentive programs.

Homes that are more energy efficient, more affordable to maintain, healthier and more comfortable will be the result!

Participation in this study is voluntary but we encourage builders to participate if contacted. You will be helping the Texas homebuilding industry to build more efficient, comfortable, and healthy homes.

For more information:

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