

FACT SHEET

ENERGY CODE COMPLIANCE

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The Georgia Department of Community Affairs, along with the Homebuilders Association of Georgia, was able to lower the cost of duct-blasters and blower-door testing from \$600-\$800 to \$150-\$200 per use.

STANDARD BEARERS

THE EXCELLENCE IN ENERGY CODE COMPLIANCE AWARD

In its second year, the Standard Bearers Award seeks to recognize a state jurisdiction, a local jurisdiction, and an individual who are using cost-effective code-compliance strategies that have achieved energy code compliance and energy reduction.

Past winners include: Village of Hoffman Estates (IL), Pima County (AZ), and Gil Rossmiller (CO). IMT will be soliciting applications for the 2014 Award in early 2014. Mark your calendars now, or visit imt.org and sign up for the IMT newsletter.

IMT congratulates the winners of the 2013 Standard Bearers Award. Read more about them below.

BRENT URSENBACH, ENERGY CODE CHAMPION

Brent is an Energy Code Official for Salt Lake County, UT. Having traveled the state and visiting numerous jurisdictions, he is a staple in the Utah construction and code official community. One code official described him as “an industry leader and champion...an example of what this award is.”

Brent has shown exemplary work in leading classes, webinars, and presentations throughout the state of Utah. He is also an active member of the ICC's Utah Chapter.

Prior to working with the city and county of Salt Lake, Brent worked in the HVAC industry for 33 years, 23 as the owner/president of Brookwood Heating & Cooling. Brent currently serves on many state and local energy committees and is the 2013-14 President of the Rocky Mountain Gas Association, a mechanical contractors group committed to high efficient HVAC design and installation.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, STATE-LEVEL WINNER



IMT Institute for Market Transformation

Several stakeholder groups were concerned with the challenge of complying with Georgia's requirement for duct and envelope leakage testing in new low-rise residential buildings. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs convened a broad group of stakeholders including the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA), the Homebuilders Association of Georgia (HBAG), and local chapters of the HBAG. Together they established a loan program for duct and envelope leakage testing equipment.

DCA was able to purchase the testing equipment through remaining ARRA funds allocated by GEFA and lease them to the HBAG. The HBAG would serve as distribution centers through their local chapters. Together, they were able to lower the cost of testing from \$600-\$800 per test, to \$150-\$200 per test. In addition, the HBAG was also responsible for designing and hosting a website dedicated to the program which included requirements, information, online applications, and an equipment locator. This program made testing equipment accessible across the state.

THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, JURISDICTIONAL-LEVEL WINNER

Austin, Texas used an innovative, holistic approach to improving their energy efficiency through building energy codes. Through city leadership and the Zero Energy Capable Homes Task Force they were able to chart a course to greater efficiency through code compliance. The program included:

- Local, climate-zone specific, amendments to the IECC
- Verification and testing requirements
- Education, training, and outreach

After amending their residential energy code to require six different types of performance testing, Austin was left with the question of who would perform the testing. One of Austin's key decisions for ensuring compliance was to implement a third-party program for performance testing. The program is administered by Austin Energy and the testing companies are required to be independent of the mechanical and building contractors. Additionally, all City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department residential inspectors are certified to perform energy code inspections.

ABOUT IMT The Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting energy efficiency, green building, and environmental protection in the United States and abroad. Much of IMT's work addresses market failures that inhibit investment in energy efficiency. For more information, visit imt.org.

ABOUT GBPN The Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) has a mission to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with building energy use by:

- Promoting best practices in building energy efficiency and performance
- Offering world-class energy efficiency expertise to policymakers and business leaders
- Advancing policies and programs that promote low carbon, energy-efficient buildings worldwide.

GBPN operates in the United States, Europe, China, and India, with its global center in Paris. For more information, visit www.globalbuildings.org.