

The HOME STAR Initiative to Retrofit America's Housing for Good Jobs and Energy Efficiency

Overview:

HOME STAR is proposed new legislation to create jobs in existing industries by providing strong short-term incentives for energy efficiency improvements in residential buildings. The program will move quickly, with a minimum of red tape, and will act as a bridge to long-term market development of existing industries. This initiative establishes a \$6 billion rebate program to encourage immediate investment in energy-efficient appliances, building mechanical systems and insulation, and whole-home energy efficiency retrofits. HOME STAR will rapidly create jobs in both construction and manufacturing, while saving families money on their energy bills. It will build on current state programs and existing industry capacity for performing both retrofits and quality assurance, using federal standards and incentives as a common platform to lower program costs and increase consumer awareness.

Strong consumer incentives to drive market demand, combined with meaningful standards and incentives to ensure model business practices for installing efficiency measures and verifying energy savings, will ensure that the growing energy efficiency retrofit industry produces ongoing and measurable energy savings while putting Americans back to work in long-term jobs. This provision should also include targeted insulation product consumer incentives to stimulate broad exposure to energy efficiency measures, expand overall retrofit activity while stimulating manufacturing.

Consumer Incentives:

HOME STAR provides two types of consumer incentives:

1. The **SILVER STAR *prescriptive path*** provides a near-term incentive for specific energy saving investments that is simple to administer and easily introduced into the existing marketplace. Homeowners receive between \$1,000 and \$1,500 for each measure installed in the home, or \$250 per appliance, with a benefit not exceeding \$3,000 or at least 50% of total project costs (whichever is less). Covered measures include air sealing; attic, wall, and crawl space insulation; duct sealing or replacement; and replacement of existing windows and doors, furnaces, air conditioners, heat pumps, water heaters and appliances with high-efficiency models. The legislation will utilize existing standards for qualifying products at a level sufficient to significantly increase consumer demand for highly energy efficient building materials and mechanical systems. SILVER STAR improvements may be implemented by any appropriately licensed and insured contractor, but all participating contractors will receive information about opportunities for accreditation and training programs.
2. The **GOLD STAR *performance path*** offers an incentive to households that choose to conduct a comprehensive energy audit and then implement a variety of measures that are designed together to provide greater total returns in energy savings. This performance path represents the future of home efficiency: state-of-the-art building science is used to identify problems, present solutions and deliver verifiable energy savings, generating confidence among homeowners and investors alike. This technology-neutral approach is based on performance, not specific products, so market forces will direct funds to solutions that achieve the best results. A certified professional with accreditation from the Building Performance Institute (BPI), the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) or an approved equivalent conducts an energy audit before work begins, and a test-out when the performance retrofit is complete. Consumers receive \$3,000 for modeled savings of 20%, plus an additional \$1,500 incentive for each additional 5% of modeled energy savings, with incentives not to exceed 50% of project costs. Contractors implementing the GOLD STAR performance path must be BPI accredited.

Key Provisions:

Administrative Process: The HOME STAR program must meet several overarching goals. To be successful, HOME STAR must rapidly put construction workers back to work as well as create good, living-wage jobs for American workers; generate a minimum of new government bureaucracy; provide clear lines of authority; and offer a transparent process for all participants.

HOME STAR is not dependent on whether authority rests with a particular federal agency, rather authority could reside within a number of federal agencies without compromising the program goals. The federal government must, however, provide uniform guidance to establish consistent baseline resources and procedures for all states. States will take the lead in overseeing quality assurance programs and coordinating with existing programs to avoid duplication. The ultimate implementation of this program will be driven by market transactions and as such the program will set aside administrative funds to drive consumer awareness.

HOME STAR will provide a rebate to consumers, which can be assigned to another party including the manufacturer, distributor, retailer, or contractor who completes the work. This rebate can be credited to consumers at multiple points in the transaction process including at the point of sale or point of completion of the job. Rebate checks can be issued either by the federal government, through existing state energy programs, or some combination of these entities based on infrastructure capability. In any case, administrative procedures must be designed for speed and efficiency, to roll out the program rapidly and effectively and to provide timely payments.

Quality Assurance: The program establishes a robust system of post-project-completion quality assurance to ensure quality installations adhering to technical standards and to provide accountability, protecting against waste, fraud and abuse. This system establishes industry performance standards, ensures that a portion of all jobs are inspected by credentialed professionals, and offers an additional incentive to contractors that invest in a trained and certified workforce.

Contractors can enroll in the program by registering and presenting proof of licensing and insurance to a quality assurance provider through BPI, RESNET, or a provider designated by the state quality assurance plans. Homeowners may be contacted by a quality assurance provider for a field inspection after job completion to make sure that work was done according to standards and as contracted. Each homeowner will have the right both to request or to choose not to receive, a home field inspection. The program will guarantee minimum inspection rates sufficient to assure quality work and provide accountability for contractors.

Quality assurance programs managed at the state level will maintain lists of qualified inspectors, facilitate access to training and certification programs (including outreach to low-income workers and minority contractors), coordinate with existing state and local efficiency programs, and develop systems for monitoring and enforcement. To provide for the long-term sustainability of this new and growing market, states will work with the Department of Energy to bring their quality assurance oversight up to a common national standard.

For GOLD STAR projects, contractors must submit a job completion checklist and work scope for each project, along with testing data, before the incentive is disbursed. SILVER STAR contractors are only required to submit a job completion checklist. For both the GOLD STAR and SILVER STAR programs, field quality assurance is conducted within 30 days on a sample of jobs to verify quality installation.

Quality Assurance requirements in HOME STAR will involve a simple paperwork review in approving individual rebates, in addition HOME STAR will provide a minimum baseline protocol for field inspection that is sufficiently rigorous to ensure high quality installation and appropriate consumer protection. In all cases reduced inspection rates will be offered for contractors employing a trained and certified workforce.

Program Costs: To achieve rapid near-term job creation, \$6 billion should be allocated to HOME STAR during the first year, \$1.8 billion of which should be set aside for GOLD STAR incentives. While HOME STAR is envisioned as a time limited program, the GOLD STAR path should be continued beyond the first year as a bridge to permanent residential energy efficiency programs established by existing federal energy and climate legislation outlined below.

Legislative and Administrative Precedents: HOME STAR is endorsed by the President’s Economic Recovery Advisory Board (PERAB). This proposal is based on the Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP) legislation that is included in the American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act passed by the House of Representatives, and in the Building Efficiency title of American Clean Energy Leadership Act (ACELA) reported out by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Additional measures are drawn from leading state and local programs. This program also builds on investments made in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and on executive actions taken as a result of the Vice President’s Recovery through Retrofit program.

The HOME STAR initiative will be significantly enhanced by proposed financing tools to reduce the upfront cost burden faced by homeowners for residential retrofit projects.

The establishment of additional incentives to cover commercial and industrial property would also be very valuable components of any legislation designed to create jobs through improved energy efficiency.

Coalition Support: HOME STAR builds on existing policies and initiatives that have already demonstrated effectiveness and won widespread support from construction contractors, building products and mechanical manufacturers, retail sales businesses, environmental and energy efficiency groups and labor advocates. Organizations and businesses endorsing the HOME STAR approach include the following.

HOME STAR COALITION SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

Absolutely Professional Services
Abundant Power Group
ACEEE
AFC First Financial Corp.
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI)
Alliance for Green Heat
Alliance to Save Energy
Andersen Corporation
BASF The Chemical Company
Blue Green Alliance
Build It Green
Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association
Center for American Progress Action Fund
CertainTeed Corporation
Change to Win
Conservation Services Group (CSG)
Council of the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (CNAIMA)
The Dow Chemical Company
E3 Innovate, LLCq
EcoBroker
EcoBroker International
Efficiency First
Energy Federation, Inc
Energy Smart Real Estate Professionals
ENE (Environment Northeast)
Environment America
Fiberite Technologies, Inc.
GreenFiber
Green For All
Green Homes America
Green Home Solutions by Grupe
Guardian Industries Corp
H.A. Thompson & Sons
The Home Depot
Johns Manville
Knauf Insulation
The Linc Group
Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA)
Lowe's Companies, Inc.
Masco
Masco Home Services
Murphys Windows and Sunrooms
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
NATIONAL FIBER
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
National Trust for Historic Preservation
NICE LLC
Northeast Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC)
Owens Corning
PEG
The Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA)
Recurve (formerly Sustainable Spaces)
Renewable Funding LLC
Serious Materials
Sierra Club
Simonton Windows and Therma Tru Doors -
Fortune Brands Companies
Standard Renewable Energy
U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)
Zero Energy Contracting, LLC

ADDITIONAL HOME STAR COALITION SUPPORTERS:

Below is a list of companies and organizations from across the country that have registered their support for HOME STAR legislation.

5 Star Performance Insulation
A1A Home Energy Rating
A1Certified Home Inspections
Abaris Realty
Able Home Performance
Above and Beyond Energy
AC Mechanical
Accent Southwest Windows
Accu Air
ACME Home Performance
Action Now
ADB Associates
Adena Energy and Environmental Consulting
Advanced Building Analysis, LLC
Advanced Energy Solutions
Advanced Home Analysts
Advanced Home Performance
Affordable Solar Hot Water and Power LLC
Air Solutions Inc.
Air-Tite Home Products
Airedale Energy Consultants, L.L.C.
AK Complete Home Renovations
Alaska Craftsman Home Program
Alert Residential Inspection, PLLc
All Day Enterprises, LLC
All Property Brokers
All Seasons Real Living Real Estate LLC
Allen Associates
Alternative Building Center
American Air Purification
American Energy
American Green Homes
American Western Of Arizona L.L.C.
Amicus Consulting Services
Andersen Windows
Annadel Building Solutions LLC
AppleBlossom Insulators Inc.
Applied Ecologics
Applied Performance Technologies, Inc; dba:
Residential Energy Solutions
Ardent360, LLC
Area Spray Foam
Artemis Natural Homes Inc.
ASERusa
Asheville Energy Audits
Ashton Thermal, LLC
ATS Engineering
The Avenue Builders
Bank of America Home Loans
Batt + Lear, Inc.
Baxter retrofit
Benchmark construction
Berkley Energy
BEST GREEN ENERGY SOLUTIONS, INC
Bestech Energy Systems
Beutler Corp
Bill Hane Costruction Inc.
BLIP Design
Blue C LLC
BOB the INSPECTOR, Inc.
Boggs Inspection Services
Bonney Plumbing, Inc.
Boone, Hill, ALlen & Ricks
Bovio Advanced Comfort & Energy Solutions
BP Energy Solutions LLC
Breathe-Rite Air
Breathe-Rite Air
BrightHome
Brower Mechanical Inc
Build With Vision
The Building Doctors
Building Energy Experts
Building Performance Group
Building Performance Services LLC
Building Performance Solutions, Inc.
Building Science Academy
Building Science Solutions
Burlingame Inspections
CA Center for Sustainable Energy
The CAD House
Cal Green Lending
California Building Performance Contractors
Association
Calliope Compositions, LLC
Capitol Energy Consultants, Inc
Carolina Home Energy LLC
Castellana Homes, Inc.
CastleRock Technology, Inc.
CBPCA
Certified Energy Consulting
Certified Energy Raters LLC

Certified Energy Ratings, Inc.
 CFM Equipment Distributors
 CGE Solutions, Inc
 Chicago Energy Consultants
 Chris Cone Consulting
 Chris Donatelli Builders inc.
 Cincinnati Energy Solutions LLC
 City Creations, Inc.
 City of Glendale
 Clean Sweep Chimney Service
 CleanEdison
 Cleantech Business Solutions, LLC
 Clemson University
 Click Properties
 Coastal Energy Solutions, LLC
 Comfort Climate Control
 Comfortable Efficiency
 Comfy House
 Community Environmental Council
 Community Housing Foundation
 Con-Com-T Inc.
 Conservation Pros, LLC
 Conservation Services Group (CSG)
 ConservEnergy Diagnostics
 Continental Energy Resources
 Coolest Energy
 Cooling 4 Less
 Cooling 4 Less
 Cozy Home Performance
 Craig Thompson Contracting
 CSI Home Energy & Remodeling
 The Cypress Group Limited
 Danielsen Construction & Energy Management
 David Cunningham Electric
 Davis Energy Group
 DeHart Plumbing Heating and Air Inc.
 Denver Green Buildings
 Dharma Builders
 Diverse Energy Concepts, Inc.
 DMD Mechanical Inc.
 Dore Property Ventures, LLC
 DPIS Engineering
 Dr. Project
 The Draft Detective
 Dream Builders General Contractors
 Duffy Real Estate
 Dundon Insulation, Inc.
 DwellGreen, LLC
 DwellTek
 E3 Innovate
 Earth AND Sky Energy, LLC
 Earth Homes
 EarthSTEPS. LLC
 Eco Evaluator Inc
 Eco Haven Systems
 Ecobeco LLC
 Ecocentric Energy Solutions, LLC
 EcoEarthEnergy, Inc.
 ECOFAB
 EcoHome Solutions
 EcoLogical Realty
 EcoHouse
 ECONTC
 Ecos Material and Services
 EcoSmart Atlanta, Inc
 EcoSmart Homes
 EDGE Energy
 EERO
 Efficiency First, LLC
 Efficient Building Solutions
 Efficient Energy Solutions, LLC
 Efficient NRG Consultants
 Electric & Gas Industries Association
 ELM3NTS
 Energetechs
 Energtech
 Energy-Able
 Energy Audits Unlimited
 Energy Beyond Design Inc.
 Energy Check by Shelter Alternatives, Inc.
 Energy Circle
 Energy Conservation Design Inc.
 Energy Conservation Insulation Co
 Energy Conservation Organization
 Energy Conservation Training Company
 Energy Construction LLC
 Energy Detective Agency
 Energy Diagnostics & Design
 Energy Diagnostics Inc.
 Energy Driven Solutions, Inc.
 Energy Ecostrategies
 Energy Efficiency Associates, LLC
 Energy Efficiency Management, Inc.
 Energy Efficient Home Professionals
 Energy Efficient Spaces
 ENERGY HOME INSULATION.INC
 Energy Impacts
 Energy Lock inc.
 Energy Masters
 Energy Metrics

Energy Pros of Ohio, LLC
 Energy Savers
 Energy Saving Comfort Systems Inc.
 Energy Services Group
 Energy Smart Solutions
 Energy Solutions Unlimited
 EnergyPRZ, LLC
 EnergySavvy.com
 EnergyTribe LLC
 Energywise Consulting
 EnerPath Services, Inc.
 Enersolve, LLC
 Envirolution
 Environment, Safety and Health, LLC
 EON U.S.
 ePaperlessAuditTrail.org
 Equilibrium Energy + Design
 Evergreen Home Performance LLC
 EverGreen Home Services, LLC
 Evergreen Homes
 Five Star Energy Corp.
 Florida Home-improvement Associates
 Fluid Market Strategies
 Fluke Corporation - Fluke Thermography
 Fort Collins Utilities
 Free Lighting Corporation
 Fresh Energy
 Frostbusters & Coolth Co.
 Fulcrum Contracting, Inc.
 Gary Bazzett, Builder
 General Millwork Supply, Inc.
 Generational Energy
 Genevieve Vayda Design
 Get Green Remodeling, Inc
 GETI
 Green Build Technology, LLC
 GHI Green Horizons Innovators
 Gilleran Energy Management
 Glen Oaks Community College
 Grasshopper Energy
 Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance
 Green Building Solutions
 Green Building Solutions, Inc.
 Green Built CT
 Green Dream Group, LLC
 Green Energy Audit Certification
 Green Hammer Inc
 Green Home Energy Solutions
 Green Home Savvy
 Green House
 Green Job Training Center
 Green Jobs Alliance
 Green Key Real Estate
 GREEN Northampton
 Green Savers USA
 Green Star Energy
 Green Summit Consulting
 Greenalysis
 GreenBuilt
 GreenCalcs for Sustainable Building, LLC
 GreenChoice
 GreenEc
 Greener Dawn
 GreenFiber
 Greener U Consulting, LLC
 GreenHome 5
 Greening Homes
 Greenlight Construction, LLC
 Greenovation
 Greensleeves Inc.
 The Greensulators, Inc.
 Greenville.Pro
 Greenwise Home
 Greenworksjobcorps
 Gregory G Young Photography
 Gulf Geoexchange and Consulting Services, Inc.
 Gutierrez Construction Unlimited
 GWSSI
 H.E.L.P. Group, Inc.
 Habitat for Humanity Detroit
 Habitat For Living
 Habitat Home Energy Specialist
 HeatKeepers
 HERSCO
 High Performance Home, LLC
 Highlands Energy Consulting
 Hinc. Contractors
 HLN Energy Services
 Hoggard Construction
 Home Ec Home Performance, Inc.
 Home Energy Connection, LLC
 Home Energy Licensed Professional
 Home Energy Magazine
 Home Energy Matters, Inc.
 Home Energy Rating Services, Inc.
 Home Energy Retrofit
 Home Energy Science
 Home Energy Solutions of Maine

Home Energy Solutions LLC
Home Energy Team
Home Energy Team KC
Home Energy Techs
Home Performance Contractors
Home Performance Inc.
Home Performance NC, Inc.
Home Performance Solutions, LLC
Home Performance Washington
Home R/X
Home Star Energy Services Inc.
Home Visions West
HomeCheck
HomeFree Energy
HomePerformance
House 2 Home Services, Inc.
House Fixers
Houston Homestar
Husker NRG Auditors
Hybrid Home Performance
IBS Advisors, LLC
Icarus Green Energy Solutions
ICF International
Independent Contractor
Innovative Energy Technologies
InSinkErator
Insulate America
Intelligent Energy Management LLC
Interiors by Kathy's Kreations
IR Services, LLC
J Schwartz, LLC
John Toth & Associates
K & J Contracting
Kansas Institute
Kaua'i Tropical Properties, Inc.
Key Green Energy Solutions
Kinetik Energy Solutions, Inc.
Kruger Sustainability Group
L.A. Robbins & Associates
Land and Homes Consultants
Laney College
Legacy Builders
Lightly Treading
Living Green Homes
LKN Realty, LLC
Local Energy Alliance Program
Lockwood Services LLC
Long Island Energy
LW Reedy Real Estate
Malcarne Contracting, Inc

ManagePro
Mason Dixon Home Inspection Services, Inc.
Master Remodelers, Inc.
Mchale's Environmental Insulation
Meadowlark Builders
MHC
Michigan Energy Audits, LLC.
Michigan Energy Savings
Minnick's
Montgomery Home Performance
Moore Better Building Consulting
Mosburg Heating & Air
Move In Ready, LLC
NanEngineering
Nautical Resource, Inc
NC Energy Partners
NetOhome Inc.
Nevada Energy Audit
New England Smart Energy Group
New Leaf America
North Sound Energy Remodel
NorthBay Energy Services, Inc.
Northwest Green Mechanical
On Earth Energy Group LLC
Optimum Energy LLC
Oracle Corp.
Orange Coast Energy Consulting
Pacific Coast Home Solutions
Padgett's Gadgets
Pam's Inspections
Park Mechanical
Peaks & Vistas
Pendrey Consulting
Performance Systems Development
Perry Electric & HVAC
Pinnacle Homes
Populus Sustainable Design Consulting
Positive Energy, Inc.
PowerDown
Powersmith
Prairie Insulation and Energy Services
Precision Built Homes Corp
Preferred Builders
Premier Inspection Services LLC
Primas Green House
Princeton Air
Priority Energy Planning
ProActive Energy Systems of Charlotte
ProCraft Inspection Services
ProEnergy Consultants

Progressive Foam Technologies, Inc.
PSFI Energy
Pure Eco Environmental Solutions
Quantum Builder
R and R Heating & A/C
Rager Energy Consulting LLC
Ray O. Cook Company
REAS, Inc.
Reclaimed Energy, Inc.
Reder Construction
Regal Services
ReGroup
REhabitat
Re/Max Alliance
RE/MAX Excalibur Realty
Reliable Raters
Remodel and Repair Solutions
Renewal System Solutions
Renaissance Service Inc.
Residential Energy Professionals, LLC
Residential Science Resources, LLC
RetroGreen
Revolution Green Power
Ring's End Inc.
RISE Engineering
Rising Design & Construction
Rising Sun Energy Center
RMC EneergyWise Homes
The Roofing Company
Roohan Realty
S. Robert August & Company, Inc.
sageHaus Inc.
Salamander Unlimited
San Gabriel Insulation
San Joaquin Valley Construction Management
Group
SaveGreenUSA
Schaafsma Heating & Cooling
SENCON
Sennergy Solutions
Sensible Energy Solutions
The Shampoo Horn, LLC
Shelter Alternatives, Inc
Shenandoah Estates
ShhConsultancy
Sierra Building Performance
Sierra Pacific Home and Comfort
Small Step Energy Solutions, LLC
Smart Building Audits
Smart Energy Solutions

The Snell Group
Snug Planet LLC
So Cal Remodeling Products, Inc
Solar Smart Living, LLC
Sol-Tek Industries
Somerville Climate Action
SOS Consulting
Sound Home Performance
South West Landscape LLC
Southern Contracting
Southern Evergreen, LLC
SRE
Standard Renewable Energy
Star Energy Consultants, Inc.
Stratton Mechanical Services
Structured Energies, LLC
Structures NW
Studio Nuevo
Summit Energy Solutions, LLC
Sunkist Plumbing and Solar
sunny day homes inc
Sunrise Energy Management LLC
Sustainable Building LLC
Sustainable Building Performance Inc.
Sustainable Design
Sustainable Energy Group
Sustainable Environmental Services
Sustainable Ideas Consulting
Sustainable Improvements
Sustainable Interiors
Sustainable Solutions, LLC
Sustainable Solutions Unlimited
Sustainably Built
Sylvan Energy Consulting
Symons Engineering Consultants, Inc.
SynerGreen
Synergy Homebuyer Service
Taylor Home Energy
Team Energy Solutions Institute
Tekton Inc.
TerraLogos Energy Group
Thermal Optic Solutions Inc.
Thermmo-Tek Ltd.
ThermoCat Inc.
Thermo-Scan Inspections
Thomas Dostal Developers Inc.
Thurston Associates
Tidewater Service
Total Home Performance
True Energy Solutions, Inc

TruTech Tools, LTD
USA Tyger Industries, Inc.
US Green Home
Utah Solar & Alternative Energy
Valley Energy Foundation
Veritas Building Consultants, LLC
Vernon & Co LLC
Visible Energy, Inc.
W. E. Brown, Inc.
Walker Interior Remodeling, Inc.
WarmTech Solutions
Waterplanet Alliance

Wattzy
Weatherseal Insulation Co LLc
WESketch Architecture
Wesson Energy, Inc.
Western Roofing Systems
Whitehead Enterprises
Williams Energy Efficiency
Window Fix
Wise Energy Audits
WiseEyes Home & Property Inspections Inc.
Wolfworks Inc.
WoodPellets.com
Yost & Little Realty
Zero Impact Architecture