

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: MICHAEL BARRIERE [mvbarriere@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 1:18 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: 12-EBP-1 Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Program for Existing Buildings (AB 758) Scoping Report Staff Workshop

Categories: Ready to Docket



BarrierEnergy

From the desk of Michael V. Barriere

October 22, 2012

Dear CEC ~

Intro - I am a CalCERTS certified HERS Rater (CC2006045), a BPI Certified BA/ESP, a LEED GA, Weatherization Technician, and an approved service provider for Go Solar CA/NSHP, Energy Upgrade CA, EnergyStar Benchmarking, EnergyIQ Benchmarking, and other Utility programs. I have also undergone extensive training through PG&E and Edison, and am currently enrolled in PG&E's EBCx year-long training program.

I fully support the scope and spirit of AB 758, and its implementation as soon as possible.

Comments - There are several avenues in use to implement HERS ratings for Residential and Commercial properties, which serve as models:

1. The FHA/HUD Energy Efficiency Mortgage (EEM) requires a HERS assessment.

2. The California DRE offers a cash rebate to homebuyers using a REALTOR member with an EEM.
3. The New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP) requires a HERS assessment.
4. New construction of residential homes may require a HERS assessment.
5. LEED certification requires HERS verification as well as Commissioning.

There are also some gaps (loopholes?) where HERS is not required, but easily could be:

6. New construction of residential homes using the Prescriptive path can avoid the HERS verification.
7. Energy Upgrade California allows alternate testing by performing contractors in lieu of an independent HERS assessment.
8. Programs such as EmPowerSBC are ambivalent towards the use of HERS assessments, allowing performing Contractors to conduct their own alternate testing.
9. The FHA/HUD 203K Mortgage program (Full and Streamline) do not require a HERS assessment, even when energy efficiency upgrades are included in the workscope.

10. Hospital and Healthcare facilities are exempt from HERS assessments, even though hospitals are badly in need of energy efficiency upgrades.

11. Go Solar CA PV Solar incentives for existing homes allows property owners to conduct their own energy efficiency analysis on-line.

12. AB 1103 which will required US EPA EnergyStar Benchmarking for commercial buildings will, hopefully, be implemented January 1, 2013, as currently scheduled. AB 1103 provides access to business to at least promote the idea of energy savings.

13. California's EnergyIQ offers similar access to the commercial property owner.

Notes -

A. Independent Auditors: The original VP Biden "Middle-Class Taskforce" report and DOE segment development documents envisioned independent assessors/auditors to provide customer confidence and QA/QC. Today we find Design/Build organizations, Contractors and related professionals are not the enemy. They are however neither especially versed on energy efficiency / alternative energy, nor have they demonstrated much interest in learning about it - especially at the County level and below.

B. Market Access: Access to vendors and services through various programs will benefit clients, and can best be accomplished by teaming with REALTORS, Mortgage Lenders, and directly using Benchmarking.

C. PG&E also has partnership arrangements with service providers through their referral service.

D. California and certain private organizations offer certification for Small Business, Veteran, and Minority-status businesses in energy efficiency and alternative energy, which could also be more recognized through state, county and other governmental contracting.

E. Energy Upgrade CA had offered a cash incentive for HERS assessments, DRE does (until 12.31.12), but other tax incentives or cash incentives would be a huge help developing this market.

To success!

Mike

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