ENERGY STAR®
Certified Homes Stakeholder Meeting
October 23–25, 2017 | Chicago, Illinois
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22**

4:00—6:00 p.m. **Registration, Lobby, Level 3**

Early registration will be available for all attendees on Sunday, October 22, in the Sheraton Grand Chicago lobby, Level Three. (Note: from Monday October 23–Wednesday October 25, meeting registration will be located at the Ballroom Promenade on Level Four of the Sheraton Grand Chicago.

6:00—7:00 p.m. **Welcome Gathering, ChiBar, Level 3**

Join a short, informal welcome gathering at ChiBar, located in the center of the Sheraton Grand Chicago lobby, Level Three. Pick up your meeting materials during early registration hours and then stop by to greet your peers before the start of the meeting! Please note that the gathering will be cash bar only.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 23 (Day 1)**

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Registration, Ballroom Promenade**

9:00—10:00 a.m. **Breakfast, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1**

This year, EPA is kicking off the ENERGY STAR Certified Homes Stakeholder Meeting with breakfast and the ENERGY STAR Product Expo. Come enjoy a continental breakfast, connect with other attendees, and browse the latest in efficient appliances, electronics, HVAC, lighting and water heating technologies.

10:00—10:45 a.m. **Welcome & Introductions— Jon Passe, EPA**

This session opens the EPA’s 2017 ENERGY STAR Certified Homes Stakeholder Meeting. It will provide an overview of the meeting’s agenda to help attendees make the most of their time together on-site.

10:45—11:30 a.m. **ENERGY STAR Update: The Year Ahead— Dean Gamble, EPA**

Hear how the numbers are shaping up for the ENERGY STAR Certified Homes program in 2017 now that partners have fully transitioned to Rev. 08. Then, learn about the key initiatives for ENERGY STAR Homes and Multifamily High Rise buildings in the year ahead.

11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. **ENERGY STAR Multifamily Update— Rebecca Hudson, EPA**

Multifamily new construction projects currently get certified through either the ENERGY STAR Certified Homes program or the ENERGY STAR Multifamily High Rise program. To better serve the multifamily sector, EPA is creating a single ENERGY STAR multifamily specification by merging the program requirements and adopting the most appropriate from each. EPA will present an introduction to the proposed multifamily technical requirements and highlight those that are significantly different than current Certified Homes requirements.

12:30—1:30 p.m. **Lunch, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1**

1:45—2:45 p.m. **Rating Software Roundtable: Enhanced Features for 2018— Cy Kilbourn, Ekotrope; Jeff Myron, FSEC; Brian Christensen, NORESCO; Ethan Croteau, Wrightsoft; Elliot Seibert, EPA**

One of the most important tools for any Rater is their Rating software. Join the leading Rating software developers as they share recent improvements and exciting new features to look forward to in 2018. Learn how software is supporting ENERGY STAR’s program updates, and what to watch out for when rating an ENERGY STAR Certified Home.

2:45—3:30 p.m. **Landscape of Energy Efficiency New Homes Programs: CEE 2017 Results and Findings— Alice Rosenberg, Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE)**

This presentation will provide an overview of ratepayer-funded new construction programs across the United States and Canada as of 2017. CEE will share recent results about how programs are structuring their offerings, what common trends are emerging, where persistent barriers and challenges lie, and what avenues utilities are likely to take. The presentation will cover specific information about program design, incentive levels, financial offerings, quality assurance strategies, and marketing approaches. An abridged public version of the CEE Residential New Construction Program Summary is available online.

3:30—3:45 p.m. **Break, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1**

3:45—4:45 p.m. **Not Your Father’s Heat Pump— Dan Wildenhaus, CLEAResult**

Many have heard of ductless heat pumps—the most common variable capacity HVAC system—but few have more experience using them than the Pacific Northwest. This session will provide an overview of an array of “variable everything” heat pumps, including central standard systems, short-run ducted mini splits and the “traditional” ductless heat pump. As these systems gain traction in high-performance homes, learn what makes them different and the very basics of designing with them.

4:45—5:30 p.m. **Action Lab: Air Leakage and Ventilation Demo— Evan Auld, ICF**

Demonstrations will be performed on a scaled home model to illustrate the effects of air leakage, relative humidity, and simple ventilation. This session will explore the science of these three features of ENERGY STAR Certified Homes and how they improve performance, efficiency, and comfort.

5:30—6:30 p.m. **Partner Working Meetings**

This timeslot has been reserved on the agenda expressly for partner working meetings. Partners are responsible for setting individual meetings. Guidance on signing up for space in the networking rooms will be available before and during the meetings.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 (Day 2)

7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  Registration, Ballroom Promenade
7:30–8:30 a.m.  Breakfast, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1
8:30–9:00 a.m.  Welcome to Day 2—Carolyn Snyder, EPA

Day 2 will open with remarks from Carolyn Snyder, Director, Climate Protection Partnerships Division (Home of the ENERGY STAR Residential Branch)

9:00–9:45 a.m.  RaterPRO App Preview—Dean Gamble & Elliot Seibert, EPA
The EPA team has spent the past year developing and refining the RaterPRO app. During this presentation, attendees will learn how the app will benefit both builders and Raters by making high-quality field data collection possible for Raters large and small.

9:45–10:00 a.m.  Break, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1

10:00–11:00 a.m.  ENERGY STAR Residential Product Specification Update—Melissa Fiffer, Taylor Jantz-Sell & Abi Daken, EPA
Chicago Ballroom VI & VII
This session will provide partners with an update on ENERGY STAR specifications, including planned and pending changes, across a range of product categories.

11:00–11:45 a.m.  What to Do with Ducts in the Attic?—Karla Butterfield, Steven Winter Associates, Inc.
There is a significant push in the industry and by codes to bring ductwork into the conditioned space. There are numerous methods to achieve this, but many require redesigning of the building. What options are available that are simple modifications/additions to typical practice? Through the DOE Building America program, Steven Winter Associates has been researching attic duct options to enable comparable conditions to having ducts completely in the conditioned space. Past research efforts, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of these systems compared to alternative strategies, will be provided.

11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.  Using Energy Efficiency to Sell More Homes—Dennis Webb, Fulton Homes
As ENERGY STAR builders, we all know that energy efficiency can be used to differentiate our homes in a crowded marketplace. But how do we translate that investment into increased sales? Fulton Homes, a Tempe, Arizona-based homebuilder, will close over 800 homes this year, due in large part to their focus on the latest technologies and innovations. One of their strongest marketing tools is what they call “Fulton Features:” 24 items included as standard in every home they sell. Half of these are energy-efficient features like LED lighting in all ceiling cans, a Smart Home system that includes Wi-Fi thermostats, and ENERGY STAR and Indoor airPLUS certification. In this half-hour session, Dennis Webb, VP of Operations will discuss Fulton Homes’ strategy to sell more by offering more.

12:30–1:30 p.m.  Lunch, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1

1:45–2:45 p.m.  LED Lighting in Today’s Connected Home—Bill Johnson, Eaton
Today’s generation of connected lighting LED solutions provide many valuable benefits and conveniences, including dimming, scene setting, remote access, scheduling, and color tuning capabilities—all while saving energy. This session will explore current trends including: Where the LED market is heading; How LED products can help solve air leakage problems and save energy and money; How the right lighting solution can save time through automations and add visual comfort; How LED lighting benefits the environment by reducing carbon emissions; How color tuning can support circadian rhythm patterns found to improve sleep and overall health. Join us to discuss how connected lighting technology is becoming the new standard for homeowners.

2:45–3:00 p.m.  Break, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1

3:00–3:45 p.m.  Industry Update from RESNET®—Steve Baden, RESNET
Hear from RESNET’s Executive Director about what’s on tap for the upcoming year. Learn more about the WER Index, the latest on the multifamily standard; exciting developments with HVAC Quality Installation; and how the Appraisal Institute’s MOU with RESNET could finally provide a solution to one of the housing industry’s oldest problems.

3:45–4:45 p.m.  Smart Thermostats Update and Panel—Brian Farhi, NEST; Sarah Colvin, EcoBee
This discussion will feature representatives from Nest and Ecobee, the leading manufacturers of learning thermostats. Panelists will discuss how learning thermostats are being incorporated into the new construction industry, the advantages of the product, and how ENERGY STAR partners can tap into this new market to increase efficiency and customer satisfaction.

5:00–6:00 p.m.  Option One: WaterSense 2.0, Where Do We Go From Here?—Jonah Schein, EPA
The EPA WaterSense Homes program was designed to give the construction and building science communities the tools and resources needed to build more water efficient homes. With codes becoming more stringent, watering restrictions increasing, and the ever-present threat of drought hanging over critical building markets, the need for water efficiency has never been greater. To continue to respond to the needs of the industry, EPA is currently developing its WaterSense Homes Specification 2.0. As the program continues to grow, it aims to keep up with technological advances, as well as new market trends. This interactive session will engage the ENERGY STAR Certified Homes program community to facilitate feedback and input on the revision process. Discussions will focus on topics ranging from program implementation, design and construction techniques/requirements, and inspection and certification.

5:45–6:45 p.m.  Option Two: Center for REALTOR® Technology Lab Tour, 430 N. Michigan Ave., 4th Floor
Visit CRT (Center for REALTOR® Technology) Labs, a division of the National Association of REALTORS®, which started in 2015 with a mission to advocate for the use of emerging technology in real estate, educate over 1.2 million REALTORS® about advancements in smart homes, smart cities, and other smart systems, and to innovate the real estate marketplace through technology. CRT Labs operates a small laboratory at NAR’s Chicago headquarters, where they test the latest smart products, work on hardware and software projects, conduct research with leading organizations both inside and outside of real estate, and create educational materials for members and clients. This 1-hour tour will lead attendees through what CRT does in the lab and show off the wide variety of projects.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 (Day 3)

7:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  Registration, Ballroom Promenade
7:30–8:30 a.m.  Breakfast, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1
8:30–9:15 a.m.  Picking the High-Hanging Fruit of the ZNE Tree—Matt Christie, TRC Solutions

As residential energy codes accelerate towards zero net energy, we’ve plucked all the low-hanging fruit. The remaining energy efficiency measures are both hard to identify, and complex to achieve. Learn from the advanced-code examples in California and the Pacific Northwest, which show how builders, efficiency programs, and code officials are rethinking everything from measures to metrics to methods. We’ll discuss advanced measures that disrupt norms of construction, the search for energy savings from non-traditional energy loads, the complicated shift from energy efficiency to PV, and a new hyper-elevated focus on peak-demand reduction in lieu of annual energy savings. Builders, Raters, and energy consultants have a whole new set of complicated challenges to navigate in order to pick the high-hanging fruit of the ZNE-tree.

9:15–10:00 a.m.  Action Lab: LED Lighting Controls Demo—Erin Meyers, Lutron Electronics

Most builders already know that ENERGY STAR certified LED lighting is efficient (using 90% less energy than traditional lighting) and will last a really long time (more than 20 years on average). But one of the key benefits of LEDs is their compatibility with a wide array of lighting controls. From the simple dimmer to the more sophisticated systems that can be controlled from an app, homebuilders and lighting designers are using these products to add value to homebuyers. Join this Action Lab to see and interact with a range of LED lighting controls and discover what new technologies are available today.

10:00–10:15 a.m.  Break, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1
10:15–11:15 a.m.  Option One: Tips and Tricks: Cost-Effective Modeling with ENERGY STAR Homes—Elliot Seibert, EPA

Home Energy Raters can make ENERGY STAR an easy business decision for builder clients by working with them throughout the life-cycle of the project to reduce costs and add value. This presentation will give Raters tools to hit the ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target cost-effectively, including: Strategies for identifying upgrades with the most potential; Modeling tips and tricks to take credit for how your clients are already building; Tradeoffs that make the most of builders’ efficiency dollars and low-cost upgrades that deliver outsized HERS points.

Option Two: Center for REALTOR® Technology Lab Tour, 430 N. Michigan Ave., 4th Floor

Visit CRT (Center for REALTOR® Technology) Labs, a division of the National Association of REALTORS®, which started in 2015 with a mission to advocate for the use of emerging technology in real estate, educate over 1.2 million REALTORS® about advancements in smart homes, smart cities, and other smart systems, and to innovate the real estate marketplace through technology. CRT Labs operates a small laboratory at NAR’s Chicago headquarters, where they test the latest smart products, work on hardware and software projects, conduct research with leading organizations both inside and outside of real estate, and create educational materials for members and clients. This 1-hour tour will lead attendees through what CRT does in the lab and show off the wide variety of projects.

11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  Hands on with RaterPRO—Elliot Seibert, EPA; Rick Gazica, ICF

During this session, attendees will have the opportunity to take homes from start to finish within the RaterPRO app and get a better understanding of how it can help with the certification process for both ENERGY STAR and HERS Rated homes.

12:00–12:15 p.m.  Meeting Review and Feedback—Zak Shadid, EPA
12:15–1:15 p.m.  Lunch, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1
1:15–2:45 p.m.  Partner Working Meetings

This timeslot has been reserved on the agenda expressly for partner working meetings. Partners are responsible for setting individual meetings. Guidance on signing up for space in the networking rooms will be available before and during the meetings.

2:45–3:00 p.m.  Break, Riverwalk A & B, Level 1
3:00–4:00 p.m.  Partner Working Meetings

This timeslot has been reserved on the agenda expressly for partner working meetings. Partners are responsible for setting individual meetings. Guidance on signing up for space in the networking rooms will be available before and during the meetings.