



U.S. Department of Energy's 2014 Housing Innovation Awards for Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Participating Contractors

Applications due June 9, 2014

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program is proud to announce its participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) 2014 Housing Innovation Awards. The Housing Innovation Awards are the premiere event for recognizing leaders in the home performance industry. The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program is proud to nationally recognize winners' contributions to the home performance industry. These awards are presented to participating contractors who demonstrate innovative business practices that make them leaders among their peers. The award winners take on challenges and apply unique approaches to realize notable success in their local Home Performance with ENERGY STAR markets. They exhibit outstanding professionalism, build strong customer relationships, and apply building science solutions to improve homes.

Last year, DOE honored four participating contractors for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the Program. [Go online](#) to read about their accomplishments.

Award Winner Recognition

Housing Innovation Award winners will be announced in August 2014 and invited to attend an award ceremony luncheon hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy, in conjunction with the 2014 national Energy & Environmental Building Alliance (EEBA) conference on Sept. 24, 2014, in St. Louis, Mo. Winners will also be invited to attend industry-specific networking and educational sessions. Winners' accomplishments will be featured in:

- National press and journal articles
- DOE and Home Performance with ENERGY STAR websites
- Home Performance with ENERGY STAR quarterly e-newsletter
- National workshops and webinars throughout 2014

Eligibility Requirements

DOE will present Housing Innovation Awards to eligible participating contractors who are nominated by their local Sponsors and demonstrate significant innovations in advancing the market for home performance in at least one of the following categories. All nominees must be in good standing with their local Sponsors and adhere to program guidelines as set forth by the local Sponsor and national Program.

Award Categories

Sponsors should nominate their contractor(s) in one or more of the categories below. Participating contractors who are exemplary in more than one category will be viewed as stronger candidates for the Housing Innovation Awards.

Customer Relations

Nominees must be able to demonstrate an effective, systematic approach to building strong customer relationships including established channels for customer feedback, consistently high customer ratings, and responsiveness to customer concerns. Participating contractors with strong customer relations are able to anticipate and proactively manage customer needs.

Examples: testimonials, systematic customer feedback mechanism, excellent quality assurance results, high customer ratings, etc.

High Energy Savings

Nominees must consistently achieve verified high energy savings for Home Performance with ENERGY STAR projects and be able to demonstrate replicable and innovative approaches to achieve savings.

Examples: Verified energy savings could be determined based on measurement of actual pre/post energy consumption data or verified through commonly accepted EM&V practices

Industry Leadership

Nominees must provide evidence of leadership in their existing market by showcasing efforts to engage in local and national policy initiatives, training and mentoring, industry trade groups and continuing education.

Examples: training, mentoring, and advocacy to advance the market for home performance services

Sales and Marketing

Nominees must provide evidence for innovative approaches to marketing Home Performance with ENERGY STAR services and demonstrate success by connecting marketing activities to sales. Nominees may also consider highlighting unique partnerships, community events, marketing campaigns, or uniquely efficient or effective approaches to the sales process.

Examples: marketing materials, systematic lead qualification procedure, testimonials, high conversion rate (assessment to completed project), etc.

To nominate an eligible participating contractor for the Housing Innovation Awards, Sponsors and participating contractors must complete and submit the application to homeperformance@energystar.gov by June 9, 2014.

All Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Sponsors are eligible to submit no more than two (2) nominations. Nominees are encouraged to provide supplemental materials, such as marketing materials, customer testimonials, photographs, etc., to bolster the application. For more information, visit http://www2.eere.energy.gov/buildings/residential/housing_innovation_awards.html.

Application

To nominate a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR participating contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy's 2014 Housing Innovation Awards, Sponsors and participating contractors must fill out the following application form and submit it to homeperformance@energystar.gov by June 9, 2014.

DOE is specifically interested in learning about how successful participating contractors distinguish themselves from other companies. We offer the following defining characteristics as guideposts for ideas of what might distinguish one nominee from another. We encourage nominees to include information about these characteristics as they see relevant to the specific application questions.

- Delivery models (i.e. consultant or contractor, whole house or primary trade, vertically integrated or sub-contractor dependent, etc.)
- Depth of energy savings
- Efficient, productive sales process
- Efforts to advance the home performance industry at local and national levels
- Project volume
- Superior service and exceptional customer satisfaction
- Verified and/or guaranteed energy savings

To be filled out by the Sponsor.

Nominating _____ Sponsor: _____

Sponsor POC: _____

Nominated Participating Contractor Organization: _____

Contractor Business Owner: _____

Contractor POC: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Company is best described as:

- HVAC
- Insulation
- Pest Control
- Plumber
- Rater/Consultant
- Remodeler
- Whole-home
- Other (please specify) _____

To be eligible, the participating contractor must meet all of these requirements:
(Please check boxes to verify compliance)

- Participating contractor is current and in good standing with the HPwES program.
- Participating contractor actively contributed to the local HPwES program for past 12 consecutive months.
- Participating contractor meets national HPwES Program's qualifications for local participation.
- Participating contractor accepts Sponsor's nomination and contribution to application.

Complete the chart below to highlight the participating contractor's accomplishments.

	CY2013	CY2014 (To April 30)
Number of Completed Projects	_____	_____
Assessment to Upgrade Conversion Rate	_____	_____
Year-Over-Year Growth in Completed Projects (%)	_____	_____
Reported Total Energy Savings (Site MMBtu)	_____	_____
Average Energy Savings per Project (Site MMBtu)	_____	_____
Company involvement in home performance (% of workforce or sales)	_____	_____

Check the box(es) below to indicate the category(s) in which the participating contractor is nominated for their noteworthy and innovative achievements.

- Customer Relations
Examples: testimonials, systematic customer feedback mechanism, etc.
- Industry Leadership
Examples: training, mentoring, quality delivery, and advocacy to advance the market for HP services
- High Energy Savings
Examples: verified energy savings could be determined based on measurement of actual pre/post energy consumption data or verified through commonly accepted EM&V practices
- Sales and Marketing
Examples: marketing materials, systematic lead qualification procedure, testimonials, high conversion rate (assessment to completed project), etc.

Describe how the participating contractor's noteworthy success in your program is a result of innovation. Include what distinguishes the participating contractor from his/her competition providing specific details pertaining to the criteria selected above. (Limit your response to 400 words)

To be filled out by the nominated participating contractor.

Describe how your company is exceptional in category(s) in which you are nominated. (Limit your response to 400 words)

Describe how the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR approach to improving homes is integrated into your company's delivery of home performance services. (Limit your response to 200 words)

Describe how your company uses the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR platform. Provide examples of marketing materials as attachments to your application. (Limit your response to 200 words)

Describe why you believe your company is the most innovative, most successful, and/or highest achieving home performance company in the U.S. and how it plans to advance the home performance industry. (Limit your response to 200 words)

Nominated participating contractors are encouraged to submit marketing materials, customer testimonials, or other information to support application. If contractor needs to send large files, please email your account manager and request access to a Secure File Transfer application.

[Go online](#) to learn more about the DOE's Housing Innovation Awards or to [read about Home Performance with ENERGY STAR's 2013 Housing Innovation Award winners](#).