



Building Bridges to Net Zero



Bridging the Building Performance Gaps: Accredited Training and Certified Professionals

David Hepinstall, AEA

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Background: 1990s

- May 1993 - AEA, DOE and NYS WAP Convene 30 technical practitioners for Two-Day Professional Skills Development Planning Seminar in NYC
- Consensus recognition of “Building Performance Industry” and the need for both training and confirmation of competency
- Building Performance Institute established first as project of NYSTAR, then as a separate non-profit dedicated to certification of demonstrated worker knowledge and skills through combination of written and field assessment tools.
- BPI develops Field Technician certification (for single family) with NYS Weatherization and AEA develops BPI Certification for Advanced Heating Plant Technician with NYC Housing Authority.

Late 90's early 2000s

- NYSERDA establishes Home Performance Program for single family residential homes requiring BPI Certification of individuals and Accreditation of firms employing certified workers.
- NYSERDA supports convening by BPI of national group of practitioners to create standards for three multifamily certifications: Multifamily Building Analyst, Building Operation and Hydronic Heating System Specialist.
- NYSERDA supports training and certification of the first two for participates in its Assisted Multifamily Program (precursor of MPP)

Post 2000

- DOE, HUD and EPA support national expansion of BPI in support of a Home Performance programs.
- NYSERDA contracts with AEA to develop Multifamily Building Analyst training (based upon the BPI standards) for energy auditors working in its Assisted Multifamily program, requiring each firm to have at least one BPI certified MFBA on staff.
- During ARRA, DOE launches its quality workforce initiatives, including development of the SWS and four sets of JTAs.
- IREC establishes process for accrediting training programs that use the DOE/NREL Job Task Analyses as basis for their training

TODAY

- Four DOE/NREL Multifamily Job Task Analyses completed for four separate job designations common in the industry
- Retrofit Project Manager, Energy Auditor, Quality Control Inspector and Building Operator
- Key small homes JTAs led to creation of Home Energy Professional Certifications administered by BPI.
- DOE/NREL supported convening of Certification scheme committees for the Retrofit Project Manager and the Quality Control Inspector.

Today - continued

- BPI continues to support its existing MFBA and Building Operator Certifications
- IREC has developed a pathway for training programs to get IREC course accreditation in each of the 4 DOE/NREL Job classifications.
- Many utility programs nationally have opted requirements of BPI certification for residential programs.
- DOE has required all states to develop a plan to ensure that its Multifamily Quality Control inspectors successfully complete training through an Accredited training program based upon the JTAs.

DOE/NREL/BPI/IREC Multifamily Tools

- The Multifamily Retrofit Project Manager (JTA)
- Multifamily Energy Auditor (JTA)
- Multifamily Quality Control Inspector (JTA)
- Multifamily Building Operator (JTA)
- Multifamily Building Analyst (BPI)
- Energy Efficient Building Operations Professional (BPI)
- Standard Work Specifications (SWS) for multifamily energy upgrades

Multifamily Retrofit Project Manager

Primary Duties and Tasks per the DOE/NREL Task Analysis

(Issued Fall 2013, Certification scheme committee established March 2014)

1. Assessing project viability
2. Overseeing Building Performance Assessment
3. Negotiating Statement of Work
4. Procuring Installation
5. Monitoring Construction
6. Confirming Project Completion

Some questions

- Why does accreditation of training matter?
- Why is assessment of knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes so important in the building performance industry today?
- Who should select the accreditation standards and pathways?
- Why is this type of training and education not regularly included in public or private school schools or colleges?
- How do we, as concerned professionals, help to fill the gaps?
- How does the industry build upon the work started by DOE & NREL during ARRA?

To contact me

David Hepinstall

212.279.3903 direct

hepinstall@aea.us.org

