

## **Residential Energy Performance Roundtable**

### Meeting #1 - Educating Consumers on Value of Home Performance Meeting Synopsis

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) convened with stakeholders for the first scheduled Residential Energy Performance Roundtable discussion. Below is a brief summary

- Approximately 40 stakeholders attended the meeting with a wide array of backgrounds ranging from Home Energy Solutions (HES) vendors, to utility program administrators, to insulation contractors, to community interest groups, and more.
- We received many comments on the topic of how to best market “Home Performance”. It was agreed that the responsibility of raising awareness for home performance rests with all stakeholders, including the State. Many stakeholders offered their experience with marketing of home performance and shared that in many cases they found that comfort can be a greater motivator than others, such as energy cost reductions
- The promotion and/or adoption of standards, such as BPI certifications, was discussed. It was generally accepted that BPI training and certification will continue to play a role in Connecticut as a method for setting quality work practices and assuring credibility for the home performance industry.
- Co-payments were the focus of a lengthy discussion. It was generally accepted that a best practice would be to give significant notice to HES vendors when a change to the copay structure is planned. It was also recommended that changes to the copays correspond with the reaching of specific benchmarks (e.g. increased public awareness levels).
- One important topic in the agenda that could not be discussed at length, due to time constraints was, potential changes to the HES program that would decrease core services and correspondingly decrease cost of the initial visit. This shift to potentially move some of the core services to tier two work can be revisited at our next roundtable event.

The Department would like to thank all of you who participated in this roundtable event and we look forward to continuing to work with you as we move towards our goal of market transformation.