



TNMP

High-Performance Homes Program Newsletter

Spring 2015

Welcome

A Letter from the Program Manager

Welcome to the 2015 Texas-New Mexico Power High-Performance Homes Program. This is the second year to include the North and Central Texas TNMP service territory. Before 2014, the Program included only homes built in TNMP's Gulf service territory.

The 2015 Program has launched and the first invoice submission date is May 25. The Program is available for both single-residential new homes and new multi-family units. This provides an opportunity for more builders and HERS raters to expand their businesses. The Program offers homebuilders (or developers) a financial incentive for each contracted (qualified) energy-efficient new single-residential or multi-family unit delivered to the Program.

Homebuilders, if you build ENERGY STAR homes, visit the [ENERGY STAR Partner Resources](#) website to order FREE Better is Better ENERGY STAR Certified New Homes Brochures as well as the Sales Training Kit.

Home Eligibility Requirements:

1. The home must be in TNMP service territory;
 2. Homes have not received incentives from other TNMP energy efficiency programs;
 3. Home must be 'completed' (determined by TNMP permanent meter set date) between 10/1/2014 - 12/3/2015;
 4. To qualify for an Incentive Payment, the home shall achieve greater than 10 percent kWh savings over the 2009 IECC;
 5. To qualify for a bonus incentive, the home must satisfy all current EPA guidelines for an ENERGY STAR qualified Version 3.0 home;
 6. An address specific REM/Rate software file and other required documentation shall be submitted; and
 7. There are specific Performance Milestone Date requirements for submitting homes.
- Please contact the TNMP Account Managers, George Cornwell and Gloria Honea-

Vandegriff, for details or any assistance you may need.

Best regards for a successful and rewarding year,

Ashley Erdman, Program Manager
Texas New Mexico Power Company

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Indoor Air Quality Matters

Indoor Air Quality inside new homes; tighter envelopes are trapping polluted air. What causes bad air? Common causes are products of combustion, leaky windows, furnishings, VOCs from paints and finishes, radon infiltration, dust mites, inadequate ventilation, unvented stoves, cigarettes and stored chemicals. It is easy to fix this problem with some simple steps, continuous fresh air, properly installed insulation, non-toxic materials and cleanable surfaces. We need a **continuous supply of fresh air** that is distributed throughout the house and we need to expel stale air and moisture; this can be achieved by installing a balanced mechanical system. Properly installed insulation and proper air sealing prevent infiltration and helps keep moisture out. Reduce the use or eliminate the use of toxic materials that emit gases during and after construction. Avoid carpets and materials that absorb allergens and pollutants, instead use sustainable materials that are easy to clean and maintain. Cleaning regularly helps too!

Big Changes Coming for Water Heater Efficiency. Ready?

New residential water heater energy-efficiency standards that go into effect April 16 will require changes to the installation of many residential water heaters. Most water heaters with a capacity of 55 gallons or less will require more installation space, and those larger than 55 gallons in capacity will see additional, more significant changes. However, products manufactured before April 16 can still be bought and installed after the changeover date.

These new efficiency standards will require much higher Energy Factor (EF) ratings for larger water heaters, making a huge impact, especially on how these types of water heaters are manufactured, distributed, installed and/or vented.

The more common-sized water heaters of 55 gallons or less will likely be larger by roughly 2 inches in height and diameter to account for the additional insulation needed to meet the new standard. This may require builders to account for the increased size in their design.

It is expected that replacement water heaters installed in closets will present the biggest problems: They may require installing an appliance with reduced water capacity, selecting a much taller tank of the same diameter or a switching to a tankless water heater if space does not allow for a simple change-out.

Get more details at www.nahb.org/waterheaters.



Recent Industry News

[DFW has nation's hottest housing market, according to Realtor.com](#)

[Trades & Training: A Career in the Homebuilding Industry](#)

Calendar of Events & Trainings

[AIA Sandcastle Competition](#)

May 30, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Galveston's East Beach, Build Site #34, 1923 Boddecker, Galveston, TX 77550

Sponsored by: Greater Houston Builders Association

[Mid-Year Forecast Luncheon](#)

June 2, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Westin Galleria Hotel, 5060 W. Alabama, Houston, TX 77056

Sponsored by: Dallas Builders Association

[2015 Texas Bash](#)

June 12, 7:15 p.m.

Minute Maid Park, Houston, TX 77002

Sponsored by: Greater Houston Builders Association

[July Luncheon - Bay Area Builders Association](#)

July 7, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

La Brisa Mexican Grill, 501 N. Wesley Dr, League City, TX 77573

Sponsored by: Bay Area Builders Association

[2012 International Residential Code \(IRC\) Seminar](#)

July 15, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

9511 West Sam Houston Pkwy North, Houston, TX 77064

Sponsored by: Greater Houston Builders Association

[The Building Envelope - The ABC's of Home Building Series](#)

July 21, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

9511 West Sam Houston Pkwy North, Houston, TX 77064

Sponsored by: Greater Houston Builders Association

[Dallas Builder Association - Special Events](#)

[Dallas Builders Association - Educational Classes](#)

ENERGY STAR Webinars

[ENERGY STAR Certified Homes 101 for Sales Agents](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CDT

ENERGY STAR has a unique value proposition for homebuyers looking for new homes. Attendees of this webinar will learn the basics of the ENERGY STAR Certified Homes program, how to sell the value of ENERGY STAR to their customers, and learn about resources to help them sell ENERGY

STAR certified homes including a more comprehensive sales training available.

[In the Know: HVAC-Related Updates to the ENERGY STAR Certified Homes Program](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CDT

Are you an HVAC designer or contractor who works on ENERGY STAR certified homes? Then join us for this free webinar to learn about upcoming changes that will clarify key policies, streamline the paperwork, and reduce the hassle-factor of certifying homes.

[Happy 20th Anniversary ENERGY STAR Certified Homes!](#)

Thursday, June 4, Noon - 1:00 p.m. CDT

This year marks the 20th anniversary of ENERGY STAR certified homes. Participate in this webinar to learn what outreach activities ENERGY STAR has planned to commemorate this milestone and how partners can engage in messaging this special achievement to customers and other stakeholders.

TNMP FAQ's

How big is TNMP?

We have about 350 employees in more than 20 counties throughout Texas. Our main office is located in Lewisville, TX.

Approximately how many people does TNMP serve?

We provide electricity to over 230,000 accounts throughout Texas.

What is Energy-Efficiency?

Improvements in the use of electricity that are achieved through customer facility or customer equipment improvements, devices, processes, or behavioral or operational changes that produce reductions in demand or energy consumption with the same or higher level of end-use service and that do not materially degrade existing levels of comfort, convenience, and productivity.

Why does TNMP run Energy Efficiency Programs?

According to the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999, PURA § 39.905, and Substantive Rule § 25.181, programs are to be administered by transmission-distribution utilities to meet annual demand and energy savings goals. All customers shall have access to energy efficiency in order to reduce energy consumption and costs.

How many people have you served with Energy Efficiency?

Since 2002, over 245,000 customers have participated in TNMP's programs. In the past 11 years, TNMP invested approximately \$17.6 million in energy efficiency programs.

For more information, please contact:

[George Cornwell](#), ICF International Account Manager (Houston Area), 713-445-2027

[Gloria Vandegriff-Honea](#), ICF International Account Manager (DFW Area), 469-467-4408 or

[Ashley Erdman](#) of TNMP at (214) 222-4186.

For more information on ENERGY STAR, please visit the ENERGY STAR website (www.energystar.gov).
