

Summer 2017 Newsletter - TNMP High-Performance Homes Program

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## **Texas-New Mexico Power High-Performance Homes Program Newsletter**

Dear TNMP High-Performance Homes Program 2017 Builders and Raters,

On behalf of the Texas-New Mexico Power (TNMP) High-Performance Homes Program team, we want to thank you for a great start to the new program year!

This month is a Milestone month. Please make sure to check the TNMP database for all of your homes under construction and/or homes that had energy finals done after October 1, 2016. If they are not in the database, get them in NOW! Remember, qualifying homes MUST be submitted to the database within 60 days of the final certification/rating date to be eligible for incentives. In addition, failure to upload home starts in the database within 45 days of the date could result in your incentive allocation being reduced for failing to meet a milestone.

We are always looking for builders to participate in our program and to be challenged to build and sell better homes to their customers. It is summer and buyers are active, what better time to join our program! Please call or email George Cornwell or Lauren Grochmal to register for the 2017 Program, if you have not done so!

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## Rater Tip: Power to Cruise

The local Rater favorite DG-700 by The Energy Conservatory has a built in cruise function that will seek either 25 or 50 pascal pressure readings giving you fast and accurate envelope tests. Are you using it? If not why not? See how effortless it is to use and how cruise control will give you more accurate readings, and can even save you time.

How to:

Step 1: Set up you DG-700 as you typically would for an envelope test. The only extra step you need to do beyond a manual control is to connect the 3.5mm male to male plug between the manometer and the controller.

Step 2: After setup and any necessary baselining is complete, simply select “Begin Cruise” on the DG-700 (it’s the same button as the “ENTER” button). The device will show a confirmation screen that will confirm the pascal reading that the device will seek. If the pressure display looks correct, press “Start Fan” (also used as the “START” button), and wa-la, nothing happens...

Step 3: Turn the speed controller knob from the OFF position to anywhere between Low and High in the ON position – this control no longer operates as a variable speed control only as an on/off.

If all is done correctly the fan in use will slowly ramp up to the determined pressure reading by oscillating over and under once or twice before settling near your determined pressure. This is great for leakage to outside testing when the interactive effects of two fans can skew your results if you’re not carefully checking one fan after the other.

Written by: [Tim McConkie](#) - ICF Technical Lead



## NEW DATABASE TRACKS HEALTHY, EFFICIENT BUILDING PRODUCTS

The new, free tool allows architects and builders to find locally made products.

The BlueGreen Alliance Foundation today released a new tool to help building professionals as well as consumers find energy-efficient housing products that are healthy and made locally. [Building Clean](#) offers an easy-to-use interface that includes information about appliances, heating and air-conditioning equipment, insulation, lighting, plumbing, roofing, sealants, and water filtration.

Building Clean can be used to search for products with third-party health certifications and services that promote transparency about the chemicals contained in the products. The site can also be a resource for businesses looking to break into the energy-efficient product supply chain.

“Building Clean will supercharge efforts to find healthy, American-made products in a wide range of sectors,” says Kim Glas, president of the BlueGreen Alliance Foundation. “Building Clean should be in the toolbox of anyone updating multi-family homes, designing new affordable housing, expanding their business into the energy-efficient products sector, or looking to meet procurement policies in standards, such as LEED certification.”

From [BuilderOnline.com](#).

Building Clean is an initiative of the BlueGreen Alliance Foundation and is a companion piece to the broader Energy Efficiency for All initiative, which is dedicated to linking the energy, housing and health sectors to tap the benefits of energy efficiency for millions of low-income families.

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**State-Funded Building Energy Standards Training**

The Comptroller's State Energy Conservation Office is offering a one-day training course to support compliance with the newly adopted American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers building energy performance standards (ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2013). The course provides a comparison between the ASHRAE 90.1-2013 and the International Energy Conservation Code and is tailored for facility managers, design professionals and project managers.

### **Workshop Date**

July 28, 2017 at UT-Arlington, Arlington

### **Registration**

[Register online.](#)

### **Background**

The [Texas Administrative Code 34, §19.32](#) mandates that state-funded buildings must comply with the ASHRAE 90.1-2013 Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings or the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. The new version of the standard is projected to achieve 8.5 percent in additional energy savings as compared to the 2010 standard.

### **For More Information**

To learn more about the training workshop or about updated state building energy performance standards, contact [Fred Yebra](#).

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## **LOCAL UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Bay Area Builders Association - August Monthly Luncheon**

Tuesday, Aug 1, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

Register here: <http://www.ghba.org/calendar>

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**Bay Area Builders Association - September Monthly Luncheon**

Tuesday, Sept 5, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

Register here: <http://www.ghba.org/calendar>

**Top Golf Speed Selling - Bay Area Builders Association**

Thursday, Sept 28, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Top Golf, 21401 Gulf Freeway, Webster, TX 77598

Register here: <http://www.ghba.org/calendar>

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Have topics you are curious about or want to see them covered in this newsletter? Or have general feedback about the quarterly newsletters? Email inquiries and requests to [Lauren.Grochmal@ICF.com](mailto:Lauren.Grochmal@ICF.com).