## **BUILDINGENERGY BOSTON**

# Home Energy Labeling: The New Granite Countertops of Real Estate

August 14, 2020 · 11:00 am

### **Presenters:**

Samantha Caputo (NEEP), Julia Dumaine (CT DEEP), Ellen Tohn (Tohn Environmental Strategies) & Craig Foley (LEAR Realty Partners)



## Home Energy Labeling: The New Granite Countertops of Real Estate

Building Energy Boston – NESEA August 14, 2020

#### **Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships**

"Assist the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region to reduce building sector energy consumption by at least 3% per year and carbon emissions by at least 40% by 2030 (relative to 2001)"

#### **Mission**

We seek to accelerate regional collaboration to promote advanced energy efficiency and related solutions in homes, buildings, industry, and communities.

#### Vision

We envision the region's homes, buildings, and communities transformed into efficient, affordable, low-carbon, resilient places to live, work, and play.

#### Approach

Drive market transformation regionally by fostering collaboration and innovation, developing tools, and disseminating knowledge





#### **Today's Speakers**





#### Julia Dumaine Economist, Connecticut DEEP



Samantha Caputo Senior Policy Associate, NEEP



#### **Ellen Tohn** Tohn Environmental Strategies



**Craig Foley** CSO, LAER Realty Partners

#### Why Residential Labeling?



#### **FIRST STEP** Towards Improving Energy Performance You can't manage what you don't measure



#### Making the Invisible, Visible

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#### State and Local Gov't

- Support for energy efficiency and clean energy program management
- Labeling and retrofitting homes to meet state energy and climate goals
- Economic growth
  - home performance contractors, energy auditors, weatherization installers, HVAC technicians, etc.

#### **Real Estate Professionals**

- Lenders, Realtors, & appraisers use labeling in mortgaging, marketing, & appraising
- Access to verified data
- Meet market interest in sustainable and high performing homes
- Transparency for buyers and sellers

### The Gap

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### The Many Benefits of Residential Labeling

Health Comfort Safety **Cost Savings** 

**Energy Savings** 

Resilience

Cleaner Environment Reduced Greenhouse Gases

## Motivating Energy Efficiency Improvements through Home Energy Labeling

Julia Dumaine

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



## 2018 CT Comprehensive Energy Strategy

#### Strategy #2: Advance market transformation of the energy efficiency industry

- A. Integrate energy efficiency with real estate market forces
- B. Develop a sustainable workforce to meet industry demand
- C. Standardize efficiency with energy performance codes, standards, and certifications
- D. Transition to cleaner thermal fuels and technologies





## Home Energy Labeling in Connecticut

- Statutory goal of achieving market transformation through C&LM programs
- Connecticut was first statewide Home Energy Score implementer in April 2015
- Home Energy Score is a feature of all energy assessments in qualifying homes that opt-in
- All lead technicians are required to be Assessors





## **Real Estate-Driven Market Transformation**



Demand

## Creating a Database

- Home Energy Labeling Information eXchange (HELIX)
  - Three-year project to develop the universal database capable of auto-populating real estate listings with home energy information in a standardized format
  - Partnership of seven states (New England + New York) using U.S. DOE SEP Competitive Grant received by Vermont

HELIX



## Who Needs to be at the Table?



## **Engaging Contractors**

#### Leverage existing communication pathways.

• CT focused on utility Home Energy Solutions contractors to start

## Conduct outreach to ensure their questions and concerns are addressed.

• Held roundtables and circulated surveys to understand contractor concerns.

#### Employ consistent messaging.

• Took the top FAQs and created messaging materials to share and train on.

#### Build and maintain technical knowledge.

• Engage with DOE, they are a resource to help build technical knowledge.

#### How can you express the benefit to contractors?

• DOE Home Energy Score creates a roadmap of deeper energy efficiency measures for customers which contractors can leverage as a sales tool.

## **Engaging Contractors- examples of concerns**

"A lower score may end up being detrimental to a home,"

#### FALSE: a more informed consumer makes a better decision.

- a) <u>Studies</u> have shown that homebuyers like having energy information, and high bills or a low score do not necessarily "kill" a sale
- b) A low score does not necessarily mean that a home is poorly built.
  - The score estimates a home's total energy use, not energy per sq. ft.
  - A 4,000sq. Foot, beautiful home will likely be expected to use more energy each year than the average U.S. home



## **Engaging Realtors**

## Customize training to meet them where they are.

• Working with local realtor associations to engage on familiar platforms and provide CEU's

#### Use data and evidence.

• Demonstrate that the stock of data is growing, available, and be prepared to address concerns about labeling.

#### Engage them in the process.

 Most realtor associations and MLSs are member-based organizations. Education helps empower them to demand change.



Craig Foley, CSO and REALTOR<sup>®</sup>, conducting a training on energy efficiency and solar PV for Connecticut realtors in September, 2019.



## **Engaging the Multiple Listing Services**

Establish the necessary technology.

• HELIX allowed us to establish credibility and open discussions.

Recognize and adjust to different industry timelines.

• MLS board engagement can change.

Leverage their membership base- the realtor community.

Educate the realtors to demand this information be available.

Build and maintain technical knowledge.

• Bring their IT staff to the table if possible.

## Track Your Data

- Connecticut has almost 15,000 property records in HELIX to date
  - Includes LEED, HERS Index, DOE Home Energy Score, and NGBS New Construction



Score	Average Baseline Asset Energy (MBTU)	Average Year Built	Average Square Footage	
1	181	1949	2,803	
5	95	1965	2,011	
10	39	1975	1,794	

## **Additional Challenges**

- Stream-lining re-scoring of updated homes
- Improving lender and appraiser education and exposure
- Increase contractor-motivated adoption by customers
- Sustainable funding for training
- Potential for mandatory energy information disclosure through <u>SB 177 An Act Concerning</u> <u>Energy Consumption Data and Labeling</u>



## Consumers Value Building-Based Health Certifications

Ellen Tohn, Tohn Environmental Strategies

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## Tohn Environmental Strategies



We work at the intersection of health, energy and housing/community.

- Strategic planning
- Applied research
- Program design and evaluation
- One Touch<sup>®</sup>: Creating healthy and energy efficient housing.

# Consumers believe their home can impact their health

## Over 72% of consumers

believe their house has a moderate to strong impact on their health and are at least somewhat concerned about indoor air quality

## **30% of households** are concerned about their home endangering their health

Sources: The Shelton Group, Home Performance Association Webinar and 2019 Conference; Healthy Homes Remodeling: Consumer Trends and Contractor Preparedness, 2019, prepared by the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University.





# 60%

## Have been at least moderately concerned about indoor air quality

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Environmental Strategies

How concerned are you about the indoor quality of your home?

Source: *Energy Pulse*<sup>™</sup>, Shelton Group, 2019 n=2,028

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# They perceive IAQ issues to stem from the original construction of the home; nearly 1 in 4 believe construction materials are the cause of poor IAQ



Shelton<sup>Grp</sup>



#### Figure 1: Indoor Air Quality, Pests and Water Quality Issues Top List of Concerns

80% • 70% ٠ 60% 50% 0 40% 30% 0 20% 10% 0% Water quality Safety/comfort Other indoor Neighborhood Indoor air Accessibility Other basic Pests Harmful quality of structure issues materials/ safety safety issues chemicals Owners

Which general category(ies) best describes your concern about the impact of your home on your household's health?

Notes: Out of a sample of 501 homeowners, 250 renters concerned about specific healthy housing issues. Source: Farnsworth Group and Joint Center Healthy Homes Surveys, August 2018.

# | Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University

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Post Covid Air Purification Searches Are Exploding

RISING	
air purifier for viruses	Breakout
best air purifier for viruses	Breakout
medify air purifier	Breakout
rainbow vacuum	Breakout
air purifier mask	650%
ultraviolet air purifier	450%
air purifier necklace	350%
air doctor purifier	350%
winix true hepa air purifier	300%
personal air purifier	250%
air genie air purifier	250%
reme halo air purifier	200%
levoit air purifier filter	200%
ion air purifier	190%
honeywell true hepa air purifier	180%
smart air purifier	170%
hepa filter air purifier	140%
air purifier costco	140%
uv air purifier	140%
levoit air purifier reviews	140%
whole home air purifier	140%
uv light air purifier	140%
iwave air purifier	130%
true hepa air purifier	120%
homedics air purifier	120%
	1

Source: Energy Circle, Peter Troast, Google Trends , Last 30 days April 20, 2020

## Pre-Covid homeowners were motivated to make health repairs

## Over 30% of homeowners

have completed or plan to make healthy homes repairs/actions (air filters, ventilation, mold/moisture)

# 20-40% of homeowners exploring health repairs

motivated by a concerns for a household member with physical symptoms they associated with the home



## We link energy efficiency & health

80% think energy efficient homes are healthier

**60%** believe telling someone that an energy efficient home is a healthier home is an effective way to get people to spend \$1500 on efficient home features



#### WGBC Report: Doing Right by Planet and People



ASID, WELL Platinum Certified (Washington, DC) "ASID's new office headquarters was designed for environmental sustainability, and health and wellness, with a focus on indoor air quality, employee satisfaction, and productivity. In their new office, employee absenteeism has decreased by 19% and presenteeism by 16%."

#### Cundall, WELL Gold Certified (London, UK)

"Cundall's new office, which focused on improved indoor air quality, including continuous monitoring of carbon dioxide (CO2) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), has saved the company £200,000 due to a reduction of four sick days per year per employee and a 27% reduction in staff turnover. WELL Certification increased the project cost by 3.6%. Based on the above noted savings, these costs had a *return on investment of less than two months.*"

#### ULI Report: The Business Case for Healthy Buildings CBRE's offices in Toronto and Van



Uritan Land Center for Sustainability

**CBRE's offices in Toronto and Vancouver** — Key features include daylight/circadian lighting, ventilation/air quality, collaborative space, active staircase, sit/stand desks. Value added: greater employee satisfaction, recruitment and retention; and enhanced landlord/tenant partnerships. In these WELL-certified offices, the total employee turnover rate has fallen by almost a third and the hiring rate for new talent has doubled.

**Arup's Boston office** – Key features include daylight/circadian lighting, ventilation/air quality, collaborative space, sit/stand desks. Value added: improved productivity, attitude, collaboration and social cohesion among employees.



## Home rating systems

Program	# Certified	New/Existing Homes	
EPA Indoor Air Plus	Over 19,000 homes certified. 25% in AZ. Mostly single family.	New home focus	
Well Building	29 multifamily registered, 3 completed. Over 4,000 registered projects, including commercial and hospitality.	New buildings Multifamily focus	
Fitwel® Center for Active Design	700 multifamily projects certified or pending.	New & existing Multifamily focus	
Living Building Challenge International Living Future Institute	Over 100 <u>certified</u> , 550 registered. Single, multifamily, commercial. 8 certified homes, 2 are single family	New & existing	
Earthcraft Southface	Over 50,000 certified. Southeast focus. Majority residential.	New & existing	
Pearl	240 homes, newer program. Over 23,000 homes with certified HVAC equipment.	New & existing	

HCAC contractor using healthy homes messages in marketing



Rodenhiser Home Services is now offering many discounted services that can help improve the overall health of your home.

Air conditioning specials can keep your family cool as temperatures rise. Indoor air quality products, hands free/voice activated faucets and reliable hot water can all contribute to maintaining a healthy home

Our technicians have been trained to practice social distancing and sanitation processes throughout the service so schedule now to keep your home happy and save!



### Craig Foley, CSO LAER Realty Partners Co-founder REthink39 Group

• Craig works to unlock the value of sustainability in the real estate industry

- NAR leadership positions include
- 2019 Chair Sustainability Advisory Group

• 2020 Chair Presidential Advisory Group exploring impact of extreme weather events on the real estate industry

- Fannie Mae Energy Advisory Council
- Freddie Mac Energy Efficiency Task Force









Big Picture: Tailwinds for Industry Leadership to Advance a Sustainable Future



# Small Picture: Challenge at the Boots on the Ground Level

# Small Picture: Challenge at the Boots on the Ground Level



s ONO OI een Certification	Jnknown Type	Proposed	Unspecified	
A-Energy Star Home	Certified		ional Green Building Standard sive House Certified	G-EPA WaterSe
HERS Index Score		on Date of HERS S Green Certilled	icore	
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# Small Picture: Challenge at the Boots on the Ground Level

*Heating A- Central Heat	G-	Steam	M- Oil	T- None	Z- Passive Solar
B- Forced Air	Пн-	Radiant	N- Gas	U- Hydro Air	1-Wind
C- Hot Air Gravity	1- H	leat Pump	O- Electric	V- Geothermal Heat Source	8- ENERGY STAR
D- Hot Water Baseboa	rd 🔲 J-:	Space Heater	P- Propane	W- Active Solar	9- Air Source Heat
E- Electric Baseboard	🗌 K-	Floor Furnace	Q- Wood	X- Ground Source Heat Pump	10- Solar Thermal
F- Hot Water Radiators		Humidifier	R- Extra Flue	Y- Hydronic Floor Heat (Radiant)	S- Other (See Re
				- Hydronic Ploor Heat (Radiant)	
# Cooling Zones [			·····		
# Cooling Zones [ Cooling A- Central Air E	- 2 Units - 3 or More	N- Geothermal H	leat Pump	Q- Passive Cooling	T- ENERGY

Like builders and subs that have specialized knowledge to build HPHs there are agents, appraisers, and lenders that also have specialized knowledge in valuing HPHs.

### The Real Estate Value Chain

## Listing Agent

Buyer

Buyer's Agent

Appraiser

**Bank Underwriter** 

## Signs of movement in the market

#### ptional Services

## Home inspectors are responding to buyer's interest in EE



is totally amazing. I basically utilize my infrared camera to detect hidden lding. If there are finished walls or ceilings in the living areas, basement or ior shell of the structure, my IR camera can detect insulation voids or concealed is ut destroying or removing the wall/ceiling material. It's simply an infrared imaging and i tually "see" and "measure" thermal energy emitted from an object. I can then map out a us which can reveal serious issues that cannot be seen by the naked eye or with an



#### Home Inspections

Serving - MA#698, NH#107, ME Maintenance & Pre-sale, New Construction Phase Inspections, Warranty, Consultations, Water Analysis, Radon Testing, Environmental Data Reports



#### Thermal Imaging

Residential - Heat Loss, Moisture, Air leakage, Insulation, Roof, Electrical, HVAC

Level 2 / Building Science Certified Thermographer in compliance with ASNT (American Society for Non Destructive Testing). We use high quality equipment and bring years of field experience to your inspection

#### Energy Audits / Blower **Door Testing**



J.	Client file R:	Appraital File R			
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. HIP Hilling	Client:				
AI Reports*	Subject Property:				
Form 820.05*	Ory:	State:	200-		

Additional resources to aid in the valuation of green properties and the completion of this form can be found at http://www.appretsalinstitute.org/educatios/green\_precay\_addictionalates

The appraiser hereby certifies that the information provided within this addendum:

- has been considered in the appraiser's development of the appraisal of the subject property only for the client and intended user(s) identified in the appraisal report and only for the intended use stated in the report.
- Is not provided by the appraiser for any other purpose and should not be relied upon by parties other than these ide by the appraiser as the client or intended user(s) in the report.
- Is the result of the appraver's toutine inspection of and inquiries about the subject property's green and energy effifeatures. Extraordinary examption: Data provided herein is assumed to be accurate and if found to be in enter ou the appraver's opinions or conclusions.
- Is not made as a representation or as a warranty as to the efficiency, quality, function, operability, reliability or cost, of the reported items or of the subject property in general, and this addemium chould not be relied upon for such assessments.

reen Building: The practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resourceproughout a building's allegode from alting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and deconstruction ractice expands and complements the classic building design concerns of economy, utility, durability, and comfort (US EPA) reformance building and given building are often used interchangeably.

a Elements of Green Building: A green building has attributes that fall into the six elements of green building known as (1) ater, (3) energy, (4) materials, (5) indoor environmental quality, and (6) maintenance and operation. The energy and water ements are the most measurable elements of green or high performance housing. Appraisers need savings amounts to dev come approach to support energy efficient contributory value.

## My ask to builders, remodelers, and architects

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#### **Our Takeaways**



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